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Joel Plaskett: This is 40

Dartmouth musician reflects on alcohol, aging and his career so far. Page 11



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Snow way around it

Weather. All street parking banned, free transit through weekend



HALEY
RYAN

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Getting around the city Thursday was a slow jigsaw puzzle that likely won't be pieced together for several more days.

After 50 centimetres of snow fell Wednesday, pedestrians were forced to walk in the street thanks to impassable sidewalks and drivers went out of their way to avoid messy residential streets and areas blocked by police for snow removal.

Halifax Transit had full ferry service but only limited bus service due to heavy snow on the Burnside bus garage roof.

The city announced Thursday that all buses, Access-A-Buses and ferries will be free until end of service Sunday.

"We hope more people will choose this as an option for get-

ting around," said city spokeswoman Tiffany Chase.

"It's just a small way for us to help assist residents."

For those walking in the city, police are asking pedestrians to wear bright clothing and walk against traffic if snow forces them into the road.

On-street parking has been completely banned across the region until further notice, and Halifax police are asking anyone who sees a car causing a safety issue or making the road impassable to call 902-490-5020.

"If everyone could just take it a little bit slower, keep an eye out for everybody else, we'll get through this," Deputy Chief Bill Moore told media Thursday.

The Dalplex, spots in the Scotia Parkade and the Metro-Park lot on Hollis are some of the private lots offering free off-street parking. Six Waterfront Development lots along Lower Water Street are also open 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. until Monday morning.

More coverage, pages 3, 4, 6 & 7



FLYING OVER THE STORM

The Halifax Rainmen's Kevin Young, right, gets around the Island Storms' Nick Okorie at the Scotiabank Centre on Thursday night. Halifax took Game 1 of the league semifinal series 117-99, with Game 2 set for Friday night in Halifax. Story, page 28. JEFF HARPER/METRO



WEEKEND SPECIALS FRI - SUN

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Province on track to spend \$75M on snow clearing

Nova Scotia Transportation Minister Geoff MacLellan said the province is on track to spend about \$75 million on snow clearing this year, which would be \$17 million over budget.

The province has already spent \$63 million this winter, which is \$5 million more than it spent at the same time last year, he said.

"These are things that have to be done," MacLellan added.

"There's no holding back on budgetary amounts when it comes to snow clearing and safety, so we'll find the money for sure."

Environment Canada meteorologist Barrie MacKinnon said central Nova Scotia had the highest accumulations of snow, with Sydney also getting a significant amount at 24 centimetres.

Southern New Brunswick and P.E.I. got 10 centimetres but high winds made it seem like blizzard conditions, he added.

"Central Nova Scotia was the hot spot, the sweet spot for this storm," MacKinnon said.

"Most people know, once they are out there shovelling the driveway, they notice it was a lot of snow but it was pretty fluffy-type stuff, so that's why we got those high accumulations, too."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

For more local news visit metronews.ca

City millions over budget with latest snowstorm

Aftermath. Mayor urges residents to keep vehicles off streets for crews to do their job



HALEY RYAN
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The dollars and snowbanks keep rising, but Halifax's mayor says a state of emergency isn't necessary for this "extraordinary winter."

Mayor Mike Savage and the city's chief administrative officer Richard Butts met with reporters and other officials Thursday morning to urge residents to band together as crews dig out streets and sidewalks after the region saw more than 80 centimetres fall since Sunday.

Butts said the extra 50 pieces of snow removal equipment brought in Wednesday, and long hours being put in by crews, will add up to roughly \$29 million by the time winter is over — about \$10 million over budget.

"We have reserve accounts for these type of things," Butts said.

"We have some options, but at the end of the day there's going to be a price tag attached to this, absolutely."

Savage said a state of emergency is not a situation entered into lightly, and the ban on all street parking for much of Thursday gave anything an emergency state would offer, such as the ability to ticket and tow cars that are blocking emergency vehicles and clearing efforts.

Halifax Regional Police also shut down sections of roads



Traffic was shot on Hollis Street on Thursday as a front-end loader works to remove a massive amount of snow in the downtown core. The dollars and snowbanks keep rising, but Mayor Mike Savage says a state of emergency isn't necessary for this "extraordinary winter." JEFF HARPER/METRO

Quoted

"We don't get to choose the weather, but we have to deal with it."

Mayor Mike Savage

around the city Thursday to allow loaders and trucks free rein to clear streets and sidewalks more quickly.

Council has been clear that the city will use whatever resources necessary when it comes to snow removal and keeping residents safe, Savage said.

"This is an extraordin-

ary winter and it's going to require extraordinary measures," he said.

Savage said he was happy to hear about businesses offering equipment to help clearing crews, and how CFB Halifax members were being directed to help in their neighbourhoods where possible.

"It's a true reflection of ... how Halifax bands together in difficult times," Savage said.

Winter Operations superintendent Darrin Natolino said all residential streets would likely be plowed by Thursday evening, while crews continued cutting back snowbanks, trucking away the snow and working on sidewalks despite the challenges navigating the "sheer volume" of it.

"We have no intention of slowing down and will continue to do the best we can," Natolino said.

1 NEWS

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All this snow tough on businesses

Storm. Fewer people out and about means fewer dollars

LEENA
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Icy sidewalks, parking bans and cold weather mean hard times for many Halifax businesses — especially those relying on foot traffic.

For Jimmy Zelios, owner of Blue Olive Greek Taverna on Quinpool Road, the poor weather conditions mean about a 30 to 40 per cent decrease with in-house sales compared to last year.

"It's been a tough month and a half with these storms," said Zelios, who had to close his business for a day and a half this week.

This winter he's had to close his business for a total of five to six days.

"The only saving grace that we kind of have ... is that we have a delivery service. So if we just relied strictly on walk-in customers it would have been a lot worse," he said.

The parking ban has created additional challenges for Zelios, who says he got a parking ticket while unloading supplies at his store.

Karla Nicholson, general

Quoted

"There was no way for the city to forecast this kind of winter."

Karla Nicholson, general manager of the Quinpool Road Business Association

manager of the Quinpool Road Business Association, says she's been working in partnership with city staff to answer questions from members of the association and address the issues that have come along with the storm.

"It's definitely hard on the businesses because it's been non-stop snow since Jan. 27," she said.

Some businesses have had difficulty getting supplies due to loading areas being blocked, says Nicholson. While she feels the parking ban is completely necessary, it has also made it difficult for employees to get to work.

Places that cater to families have also lost business, as many aren't venturing out on the icy sidewalks, she noted.

"I think public safety is definitely the No. 1 priority, it's just very hard on business people when they rely on customers coming through the door to pay their bills and to pay their staff," added Nicholson.



A woman and her dog try to navigate a sidewalk full of snow on Quinpool Road on Thursday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Social media can contribute to winter blues: Professor

People in storm-battered Atlantic Canada might be fixated on winter, but a psychology professor says tweeting about it isn't the best way to blow off steam.

Holly Seniuk of the University of New Brunswick said Thursday many people experience increased anxiety, depression, anger and stress during the winter months.

But Seniuk said expressing those frustrations on social media only reinforces the negative connotations sur-

rounding winter and feeds into a cycle of negativity.

"People are spending a lot of time venting their frustration," Seniuk said from Fredericton.

"On the one hand, yes it's an outlet, but on the other hand, it's reinforcing this cycle of frustration and feeds even more into the frustration."

It's been a cold winter in the Atlantic provinces with plenty of snow. Nova Scotia was still digging out Thursday

Quoted

"Try and focus on the things that are enjoyable about winter instead of the negative things."

Holly Seniuk, a psychology professor at the University of New Brunswick, mentioning activities like walking the dog or skiing.

after the second large storm in less than a week dumped more than 50 centimetres of snow in some areas.

In the Halifax area, a number of this season's snowfalls were followed by plunging temperatures and freezing

rain, turning sidewalks and roads into sheets of thick ice for weeks.

Kate Harkness, a professor of psychology at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., said engaging with people during trying times is important,

but constantly complaining about the weather — on and off social media — will reduce your mood.

"It's a downward spiral," said Harkness. "Going over and over the stressors in your life or how bad you're feeling actually stimulates more negative emotion, which then stimulates more negative thoughts."

Seniuk said some people can become blind to the positive aspects of winter because of constant complaining on

social media sites.

"The season and the snow evokes these negative emotions and reactions because it's paired with adverse things like having to drive on ice and worrying about whether your kids are going to school," said Seniuk.

"We tend to focus on those aspects, but people should try to switch that focus to associate winter with some of the more positive things it can bring."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grab a shovel

Airport offering shovels to weary travellers with long-term parking

If you're on your way home from someplace warm, you might just be handed a shovel.

After receiving about 90 centimetres of snow this week, Halifax Stanfield International Airport says it is providing shovels for those



Halifax airport last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

who left their cars in the long-term parking lot, because quite frankly, a lot of them are

buried in snow.

"We do have shovels if needed," said spokeswoman

Ashley Gallant. "Though I know the idea of shovelling in your sandals isn't a pleasant thought," Gallant also said to keep in mind that it is a busy time of year and with the snow, parking is scarce at the airport. During the storm on Wednesday there was nothing going in and out of the airport until late in the night, but it is almost back to normal now, said Gallant on Thursday.

"It's actually pretty remarkable," she said.

MADISON BLANCHARD/FOR METRO

Weather woes

Snow and rain possible for weekend

Spring may arrive this weekend, but winter refuses to go away quietly.

Environment Canada issued another special weather statement for the province on Thursday afternoon, advising about a snow-rain mix expected for Saturday

and into Sunday morning.

The statement says snow could begin late Saturday for western Nova Scotia then change to rain overnight, but parts of northern Nova Scotia and Cape Breton could still be under white fluff.

Environment Canada says the track of the system will dictate amounts but some areas of Nova Scotia could get more than 15 centimetres of snow and rainfall amounts of 25 millimetres.

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Halifax commuters happy to get buses back after storm

Transit. Free service offered to riders until Sunday after region hit with 50 centimetres of snow on Wednesday

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Despite Thursday's limited transit service, you could find dozens of commuters gathered at downtown bus stops.

While some expressed frustration, others, like Ian Robinson, were looking on the bright side.

"When we get something exceptional like this, we have to sit back and make exceptions," he said, bundled up in a heavy coat and a hat.

The region was blanketed with upwards of 50



Passengers board a bus on Spring Garden Road on Thursday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

centimetres of snow on Wednesday, putting Hali-

fax's bus service on hold. It returned for five hours

on Thursday afternoon on a limited basis, and will be

Quoted

"It is really nice that we don't have to pay."

Shannon Parker, on Halifax Transit's temporary free service, offered until Sunday

back up and running in full on Friday.

"Transit in general is a credit to Halifax. It runs very well and you can rely on it," said Robinson, who at that point had been waiting at a Barrington bus stop for about 10 minutes.

However, the day was troublesome for commuters like Robinson, who had to find a ride into the city when the buses weren't running earlier in the morning.

"(It) was a gamble because I didn't know that they would be running this afternoon," he said.

Robinson has a bus pass, but expected many appreciated the temporary free

service offered by Halifax Transit through Sunday.

The same goes for student Lisa Tsitrin, who was waiting at Spring Garden Road to catch her first bus of the day.

"I try to avoid buses if I can because it takes time, but in winter it's cold, so walking is kind of hard," she said, adding that she would much prefer walking or taking her longboard.

For Shannon Parker, who would normally have her vehicle, the free service was convenient.

"It's a bit of a limitation having the buses only running infrequently," Parker said while waiting on Spring Garden Road.

Volunteers brave the snow to help the needy

Ken Porter woke up inside the Souls Harbour RESCUE Mission kitchen and got ready for the day.

He shovelled the snow, prepared the food and welcomed anyone looking for a hot meal.

All over Halifax, volunteers like Porter made sure that the disabled, homeless and seniors received the necessary resources to survive

the two storms this week.

Michelle Porter, Ken's wife and Souls Harbour volunteer, said it is not uncommon for the chaplain and founder to spend the odd night at the kitchen.

"He has been there for the past three days and will probably be there again tonight just to make sure people can get a meal," she said Thursday. "We don't close

the kitchen because of bad weather."

Much like Porter, Adam Craft was the only person at the Metro Non-Profit Support Housing Centre able to deliver the weekend medication to the homes of snowed-in people.

"I had to scale eight-foot-high snowbanks and find these people who live in low-income housing," he said. "I

would have taken my car, but it was buried."

The 30-year-old Craft considered himself to be in fairly athletic shape, but even he found it difficult to manoeuvre around the snow-filled sidewalks of Halifax.

"Some of these people are very old or disabled, and there was no way they could have come to our centre to get their medications," he

Pitching in

Michelle Porter said many of the non-for-profit housing, shelters and soup kitchens in Halifax work together during storms.

said.

Craft worked closely with Mobile Outreach Street

Health and found seven people that needed medication before the weekend.

"Some of these medicines were heart and psych meds that people depended on," he said.

"Obviously, they were all really appreciative and happy that I had been able to hand-deliver their medicine to them."

ERNESTO CARRAZNA/FOR METRO

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Dalhousie University has two residential structures that are surplus to its needs. Anyone interested in removing either (or both) structure(s) for relocation purposes is asked to contact the Director of Procurement in writing prior to 4:00pm March 31, 2015. The addresses of the two structures are:

6280 South Street, Halifax (roughly 4000 GSF, 3 washrooms)
6286 South Street, Halifax (roughly 3000 GSF, 4 washrooms)

Director of Procurement
1360 Barrington Street, Room B225
Halifax NS B3H 4R2
(902) 494-2363



Too much snow could delay opening of Oaklawn Farm Zoo

Weather. Launch usually happens on the first weekend in April

Quoted

"We are playing it by ear for now. Within a week of opening, we'll know and be able to set a date."

Oaklawn Farm Zoo co-founder Gail Rogerson

For the first time in its 31-year history, it looks likely Oaklawn Farm Zoo will not be able to open for the season on schedule.

The zoo, a popular attraction throughout Nova Scotia and beyond, is located near Aylesford. It traditionally opens for the season on the first weekend in April.

Not this year, though. There's just too much snow.

"With the weather, we've been having quite a time just keeping up with the shovelling," zoo co-founder Gail Rogerson said.

And that means they're considering delaying open-

ing for the season, Rogerson said.

"It kind of looks that way right now. April 3 is Good Friday, and I don't see how we can even get into the parking lot."

In shovelling a path around some of the animal pens, she said, "we've been throwing snow over our heads."

All hope is not lost yet. If the staff can clear some of the lot, the zoo may be able to let people in to view exhibits in the main building.

"We will have the building ready. We might be able to partially open," she said.

"We don't know yet. We'll just have to wait and see."

Although this would be "the first time we've ever not been able to open on schedule, in 31 years," it's not the first time the zoo has dealt with late-season storms.

"There were a couple of years we had heavy snows after we were already open," Rogerson said, notably an Easter Sunday storm in 2007.

As for what day the zoo might actually open, Rogerson and her staff had not yet made a decision.

KING'S COUNTY REGISTER



Oaklawn Farm Zoo co-founder Gail Rogerson. KING'S COUNTY REGISTER



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Expect some 'difficult decisions and change' in budget: Whalen

Provincial politics.

Finance minister and Premier McNeil preparing people for what's to come

Nova Scotia's finance minister is warning there will be hard decisions ahead as she prepares the spring budget and attempts to steer the province back into surplus.

Diana Whalen said Thursday there is a lot of work to be done to balance the books but the government is committed to that goal.

"I don't think that it will be a surprise to Nova Scotians that it's going to be a budget with difficult decisions and change is going to be a part of that budget," Whalen said.

"We have a very big hill to climb to get to a balanced

budget."

Nova Scotia is operating with a projected budget deficit of \$220.6 million for 2014-15. The deficit for 2013-14 was \$679 million, more than double the deficit recorded the year before.

Premier Stephen McNeil would not discuss Thursday details of the budget but said it will take a balanced approach.

"All of us will have a role to play and all of us will help the province get back to fiscal health," McNeil said.

"It will also send a signal that when we do, that all of us will get an opportunity to benefit from that hard work that all Nova Scotians are being part of."

McNeil has previously said the budget will focus on streamlining the delivery of programs and not sweeping cuts to the province's taxes.

In November, the govern-

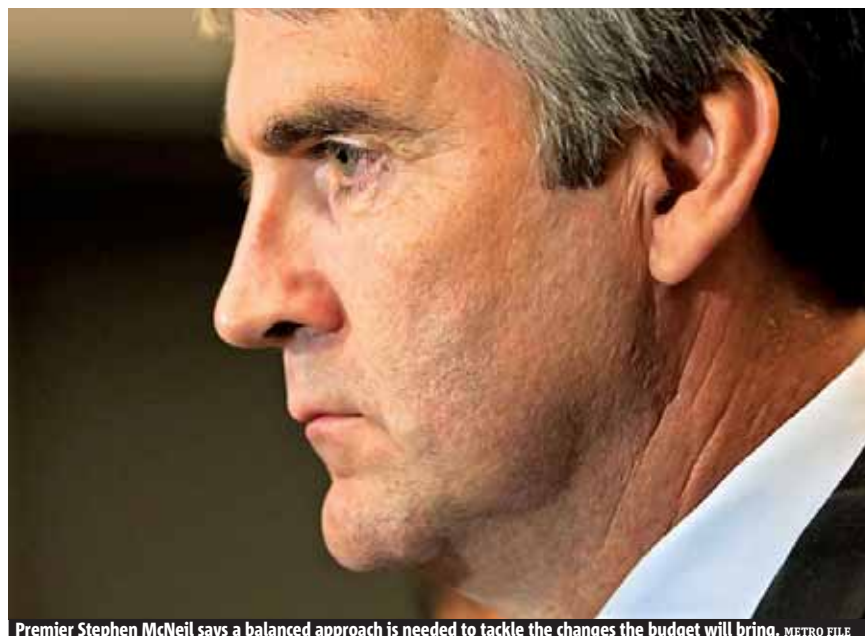
No release date

Finance Minister Diana Whalen has held eight public meetings around the province in advance of the budget. She has not announced when it will be released.

ment received a review of the province's tax system compiled by former Ontario cabinet minister Laurel Broten. The report recommended major changes that included introducing a carbon tax, broadening the harmonized sales tax and lowering income and corporate tax rates.

Whalen said she is not ruling out any of the suggestions in Broten's report but said it is a lengthy process to evaluate all 42 of her recommendations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Premier Stephen McNeil says a balanced approach is needed to tackle the changes the budget will bring. METRO FILE

Anonymous

Online gambling addiction site set up to tackle problem

A new online gambling support site has been launched to help combat the rise of gambling addictions in the province.

The Gambling Support Network is an anonymous site where those addicted and their families can seek support and help from both other addicts and experts in the field. According to the province, the new site uses no labels and doesn't portray gamblers in a negative light. It will be available 24 hours a

day and is free and confidential. It will also provide counselling through live chat, online forums and be moderated by clinicians. People will also be able to sign up for inspirational text messages.

You can reach the site at gamblingsupport.ca or by calling 1-88-347-8888.

METRO



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Canadian man murdered: Mexican police

Marty Gary Atwood.
Man with ties to Nova Scotia was killed while vacationing in Los Cabos

A man with family connections in Nova Scotia has been killed while vacationing in Mexico.

Media outlets in Mexico

identified the man as Marty Gary Atwood, 50.

Atwood was killed in Los Cabos, located at the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula, on March 19. His death is being investigated by Mexican authorities as a murder.

Prosecutors in the state of Baja California Sur say the 50-year-old man appears to have been beaten with a

blunt object. The state prosecutors' office said Wednesday that the cause of death was severe head trauma and a skull fracture.

On Thursday, Barrington RCMP confirmed it had been tasked by the Department of Foreign Affairs to notify next of kin living in Shelburne County of a man's death in Mexico.

RCMP said the deceased

man had been working in Alberta for some time but had family members still living in western Shelburne County.

"Canadian consular officials are in touch with local authorities and are providing consular assistance as required," said John Babcock, a spokesperson with the federal department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development. **SHELBURNE COAST GUARD**



Mexican authorities are investigating the death of a Canadian man in Los Cabos. **SHELBURNE COAST GUARD**

Glace Bay. Appeal launched in sex case of former pastor

A defence lawyer for a former Glace Bay pastor convicted of sexual interference has formerly filed notice of appeal of conviction.

Robert Stewart Lawther, 62, was sentenced to serve a six-month period in a provincial jail followed by a two-year probation period.

He was convicted last December by a Supreme Court jury on a single count of sexual interference involving a person under the age of 14.

The jury returned not guilty verdicts on two similar charges involving two other complainants.

In his application notice, lawyer T.J. McKeough said he is seeking to have the conviction set aside and an acquittal entered.

Three grounds for appeal were cited including the jury verdicts were inconsistent and therefore

unreasonable and that the jury erred in law in assessing the credibility of the complainant.

Lawther is currently serving his sentence in the Cape Breton Correctional Centre. After his conviction, he was removed as pastor of Bethel Family Church (Pentecostal) in Glace Bay.

The complainant testified she was touched hundreds of times in a swimming pool and on two occasions in the church.

Supreme Court Justice Robin Gogan determined the verdict related to one of the incidents in the church.

CAPE BRETON POST

Details

No date has yet been set to hear the appeal, which will be conducted at the court in Halifax.

Kingston. Halifax man charged with assault, stealing property

Two men, including one from Halifax, are facing several charges, including assault causing bodily harm, following an incident alleged to have occurred in Kingston in December.

Cecil Irving, 34, of New Glasgow, and Jacob Troy Gracie, 21, of Halifax, are both charged with stealing a man's cellphone and beating him; assault causing bodily harm and stealing property valued

at less than \$5,000.

Irving is also charged with failing to comply with probation. He was present in Kentville provincial court this week.

Gracie was not present, but he had filed a designation of counsel and was represented by his lawyer. Both accused had their matters adjourned to April 13 for election and plea.

KING'S COUNTY REGISTER

Details

\$5,000

The Halifax man and his accomplice are charged with stealing property valued at less than \$5,000.

Timeline

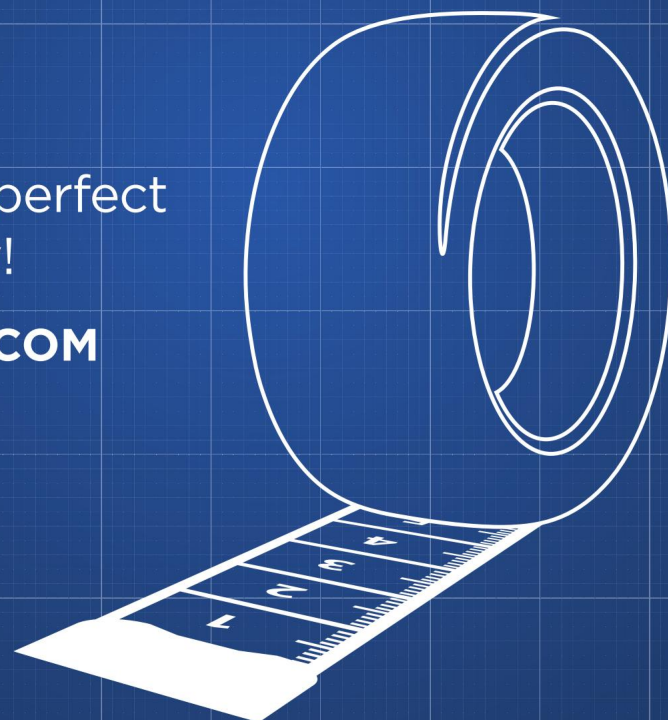
The charges stem from incidents alleged to have occurred in Kingston on Dec. 4.

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One-act plays on centre stage

Theatre. Local talents being showcased this weekend at the Pond Playhouse

The Pond Playhouse will play host to the Theatre Art Guild's (TAG) series of one-act plays to showcase the talents of local playwrights.

Called Playwrights TAG, the event was created last year by guild president Angela Butler, who wanted to give members a chance to show their writing to an audience.

"I'm not a writer but a lot of my friends are," Butler said in an interview Thursday.

Butler decided to create the event because of what she calls the lack of an outlet for the writers in the guild compared with actors and crew.

Last year they put on four 15- to 20-minute plays and she said it proved challenging.

"It was fun, but it was a lot of work," she said.



Playwright Ryan Van Horne is one of the writers whose talents will be on display at the Pond Playhouse. JEFF HARPER/METRO FILE

So this year, they selected three 30-minute plays. They are written and directed by J.L. Allen, Ryan Van Horne and Nick Jupp, who are long-time TAG members.

Allen's play is called Delusions of Grandeur and stars Nicole Moore and Mathew Darrah as a couple who visit

a marriage counsellor played by Rob McIntyre, who has some unusual methods to help his clients.

The play explores the ugly and less romantic aspects of relationships.

Van Horne's play, Butter-scotch Palace, depicts the real-life psychiatric hospital

in Cape Breton.

It tells the story of a woman who doesn't believe she belongs there and explores the issues of ethics and mental illness. It stars Valerie MacKenzie and Frank McLean as well as a newcomer to the festival, Wanda Baxter.

The final play is called

There Will be Fewer Acorns this Summer, and it tells the tale of the relationship between two sisters and how they cope with a tragedy that changes their life. Butler is performing in the play, as well as Tamara Smith, Mike Taylor and Callum MacLean.

MADISON BLANCHARD/FOR METRO

Entertainment

Actress reveals in latest role

Kylee Evans has had many great moments during her acting career.

The Stellarton native received a best leading actress (musical) nomination from the BroadwayWorld.com Toronto Awards for Legally Blonde the Musical, and she had a starring role as Shelly in Evil Dead: The Musical. As well, she's had parts in numerous TV shows.

But her latest role has been what she describes as one of the best. Evans plays Stephanie in Good Witch, which premiered recently on the Hallmark Channel in the United States. Part of the reason for that are her co-stars — Catherine Bell, Bailee Madison and James Denton.

"It's probably been the highlight of my career thus far," she said of working with Denton, a Desperate Housewives alum. "He's one of the most fantastic people I've ever met." **TRURO DAILY NEWS**

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Musician and producer Joel Plaskett poses in Toronto in February. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Plaskett: 'I love the idea of getting old'

Music. Approaching 40, the Dartmouth singer-songwriter shares his wisdom on age, alcohol, work

On April 18, Joel Plaskett will turn 40 — and while that milestone doesn't make him feel old, it might have a different effect on his fans.

After all, some have been following him since the early '90s, when his sneaky-ambitious, '70s-worshipping outfit Thrush Hermit kicked up a frothy teenage racket out East.

Plaskett's latest, the deliberately homemade The Park Avenue Sobriety Test, finds the Dartmouth songwriter ruminating on aging, alcohol and ambition — and The Canadian Press pried deeper into Plaskett's feelings on his thematic inspirations.

On alcohol:

"A lot of the environments I've played music in for years all involve boozing. And a lot of social circumstances involve it. It's not like the record's about being sober. It's not like I've ever really had a drinking problem — although I like drinking, sometimes. Then I don't all of a sudden.

"But more like, you can use booze to heighten your good time or really deepen your bad time, depending on where you're residing in your cycle of

ups and downs. And the record has a bit of that.

"I'm not trying to romanticize it or condemn it. It's not really a comment on drinking per se.

"I didn't drink at all as a teenager, in my 20s, but then that changed. And now, alcohol's part of my life, but it's not a debilitating part. But you can feel the pull of it, do you know what I mean, and the allure. And the idea that it'd be way easier to have a few drinks right now and not do anything else."

On aging:

"I'm deeper in my career than I realize. I start thinking about the guys whose records I admire, like Neil Young or Elvis Costello, and where they were at in this stage in their careers when they were in their 40s. And I'm like, 'Wait, was I even listening to the records they were making in their 40s?'"

"I believe there's only one way to go: up. I love the idea of getting old with my friends and family. Love might be a strong word. But I don't have a problem with it. I like that collection of memories that continues to deepen. I'm ready to embrace that. There's something reassuring about that. You can't run from it. If you run from it, you just end up being unhappy.

"The record wrestles that, a little bit. I can feel myself going grey. And building the studio was really stressful. I'm taking on a lot. But it's all first-

world problems. Actually, I hate that phrase. Don't quote me on that. You can quote me on that, but quote me saying I hate that phrase."

On his career:

"I haven't toured as much. I did a lot behind (2009's) Three. I did a lot behind (2012's) Scrappy Happiness, too. But I've got a seven-year-old son and my studio's a few blocks from my house. I'm still as busy as I've ever been, but I'm home a lot, too.

"Part of the reason I built the studio is ... I didn't want my livelihood to be exclusively on the road. Because really that's where the money is as a musician if you want to make a living, because records don't sell enough to fund what you're doing. I'm not the sort of person who writes songs that people cover, because they're all of a personal nature. I tend to dwell on the idiosyncratic.

"When Three was as received as it was, I think it dawned on me that my career isn't going to go away. And I was nervous about that album. Because that was like, so much material. And it got a lot of critical response. I was like, I guess I've been doing this a long time ... and it's not going to evaporate all of a sudden. So that gave me a sense of security.

"I do feel like trying to keep people interested is always a challenge, but trying to keep yourself interested is part of it, too." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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Tories seek support for ISIL mission

Politics. Federal Conservatives plan to ask opposition parties to support extension

In a challenge to the opposition, Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson said Thursday the government wants all-party backing of a motion to extend the military mission against extremists in Iraq and Syria.

But the New Democrats and Liberals continued to express wary skepticism about the government's conduct of the deployment, which has seen one special-forces soldier killed in a friendly fire incident with northern Iraq's Kurdish forces.

Nicholson made the call for unity in a speech to several dozen Ottawa-based foreign diplomats who were invited to Foreign Affairs headquarters. He emphasized the threat that the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) directly poses to Canada and its allies.

The speech was Nicholson's first in his new portfolio and came a day after Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced he will ask Parliament next week to expand the military mission.

Nicholson said he was proud of the decision to extend

the mission and "the moral clarity" Harper possesses.

"I can also tell you that he will ask all parties to come together as Canadians," Nicholson said. "He will ask them to support our government's operation to degrade and destabilize this gang of thugs."

NDP foreign affairs critic Paul Dewar said his party wants to support civilians at risk from ISIL's advances but he accused the government of not being transparent about what the military mission entails.

"There is so little definition as to what our role is there, our strategy is," said Dewar. "They have to explain how it is that Canada has ended up on the front lines of this war."

Joyce Murray, the Liberal defence critic, agrees ISIL is a threat to Canada and the world and that the country has a role to play in fighting it.

"We cannot speculate about a motion that has not been presented to Parliament," she said in an email.

"What we do know is that this prime minister has not been open and honest about what our troops are mandated to do in Iraq."

Nicholson said Canada must expand the mission because ISIL poses a continuing threat that will grow if left unchecked. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Couple shares first dance as newlyweds at Air Canada Centre

Jennifer Rogers, right, and Scott Protomanni (No. 19) enjoy their first dance after tying the knot at the Toronto Maple Leafs' Blue & White Wedding, the first wedding ever at the Air Canada Centre, in Toronto on Thursday. By way of fan votes and a selection committee, Jennifer and Scott triumphed over hundreds of wedding hopefuls through a contest on MapleLeafs.com. **AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Kamloops, B.C.

Man's request to reunite with pot plants denied

A provincial court judge has denied a Kamloops, B.C. man's application to be reunited with 10 medicinal pot plants seized by the RCMP last summer.

Judge Roy Dickey sympathized with Henry Rhode's plight but said he was breaking the law by growing at an unapproved site without a licence. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Florida

Department of health withdraws order against spa

The Florida Department of Health has withdrawn cease-and-desist orders against a health spa where two Ontario aboriginal girls were treated.

The department sent cease-and-desist letters in February, believing they weren't licensed when the two Ontario aboriginal girls were treated there. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Quebec

Supreme Court rules in favour of Jesuit school

The Supreme Court of Canada disagreed over subtleties but upheld the religious freedom of a Montreal Jesuit school's right to teach Catholicism as it deems fit.

The court decided the province infringed on the school's religious freedoms by denying it an exemption from following secular laws. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Mexico

Canadian found dead on beach

A Canadian man has been found beaten to death on a beach at the Mexican resort of Los Cabos.

Prosecutors in the state of Baja California Sur say the 50-year-old man appears to have been beaten with a blunt object. The state prosecutors' office said Wednesday that the cause of death was severe head trauma and a skull fracture. His body was found early Wednesday on the El Tule beach. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Inquest recommendations may take years to enact: Report

Many recommendations from an inquest into an aboriginal man's death following a 34-hour wait in a Winnipeg hospital emergency room will take years to implement.

That's the conclusion of a team sifting through the 63 suggestions from the Brian Sinclair inquest.

In an interim report, the team highlights some recommendations that could be put into practice quickly but said many will take longer.

The report says it will take up to two years to decide if it's appropriate to have an aboriginal elder and a security guard posted in emergency departments. Other recommendations,

Quoted

"Through collective efforts, dedication and commitment, Manitoba health-care organizations can work to prevent tragedies, such as the death of Mr. Sinclair."

A statement from the interim report investigating the death of an aboriginal man who waited 34 hours in a hospital for care. He later died from a treatable bladder infection.

such as ensuring staff intervene when a patient starts vomiting in a waiting room, can be implemented sooner.

Sinclair, a 45-year-old double-amputee, died of a treatable bladder infection while waiting for care just over six years ago at Winnipeg's Health Sciences Centre.

Sinclair spoke to a triage aide before wheeling himself into the waiting room, but

he was never seen by a nurse or registered as a patient. He languished in the emergency room for hours, vomiting and slowly dying. He was never asked if he was waiting for medical care.

Some staff testified that they assumed he was drunk or homeless. By the time he was discovered dead, rigor mortis had set in.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NEWDRONEWORLD Metro looks at how drone technology is changing the skies in Canada / Wednesday — Droning becomes big business / Thursday — Officers aren't using drones to spy... yet / Friday — You can make friends with #droneselfies

Read it all at metronews.ca



They're in the zone, flying drones

Recreation. Cheaper costs and increased acceptance have led to a surge in hobby droning



IRA LAMCJA
ira.lamacja@metronews.ca

Alexander Knight readies his drone by turning a switch on his remote control. The propellers make a loud humming noise as the drone takes off. He flies it higher and higher until it's a small black dot against a blue sky.

"You just need to be able to see it," he says, pointing at the horizon.

Knight, a self-styled citizen journalist, drives around Toronto documenting what he might deem as environmental hazards. He then blogs his experiences at alexanderknight.ca. It's a hobby for him. He makes no income off it.

Today, he's observing the cleanup of what he says is contamination from a rezoned industrial plant — and is happy to find, during the 15-minute flight, that the cleanup is finished.

With drones coming in at cheaper prices, it's now easier than ever to acquire and fly one. On Amazon, a Phantom DJI quadcopter with a GO PRO camera costs around \$1,000, and the Parrot AR drones start at around \$500 and can go up to \$900. On the lower end, HubSan models cost around \$100 to \$200, though their camera capabilities are more limited.



Drone enthusiast Alexander Knight points to an image on a screen while his drone (not pictured) flies over a field in Toronto. IRA LAMCJA/FOR METRO

The price, along with increasing cultural acceptance, has led to a new pastime of hobby droning. Aerial photography and videography are popular choices, as Twitter and Instagram will attest. #Droneselfies is devoted to aerial images of people taken from up above. Even Martha Stewart is a fan.

The trend has left Transport Canada scrambling to rein in hobbyists who stray too far. The most pressing concern for the agency has been daredevil flyers operating too close to airports, which can interfere with commercial airline planes. Transport Canada's new rules limit this, as hobbyists can no longer fly closer than nine kilometres from any airport,

heliport or aerodrome.

Knight says he hasn't had issues with Transport Canada but he worries that may change as regulations try to keep up with the advancing technology.

Patrick Dinnen, however, has had to rein in his photographic pursuits. The "creative technologist" based in Toronto had been experimenting with lightwriting — the photographing of trails of light through long exposure settings — when he bought a Phantom DJI drone.

One night he and two friends, Brent Marshall and Dré Labre, attached custom LED lights to the drone and flew it over various Toronto parks, turning on the camera and capturing its flight path,

exposing trails of ethereal light and colour. They dubbed the paintings Weird Illuminated Sky Paintings (WISPs).

"What we did with WISP is not really open to us anymore," Dinnen says, as Transport Canada no longer allows nighttime flying for hobbyists.

But for some enthusiasts, the appeal is the drone itself, as many have taken to making their own.

Knight orders the parts for his drones online through websites such as eBay. And there are resources among the hobbyist community to help those who need it.

DYIdrones.com, a U.S.-based website devoted to connecting drone fans with peers, functions as a social

network for hobbyists and amateur enthusiasts.

The site's goal is to make drone development easier and cheaper for everyone while educating people on the technology. Discussions on the site can feature anything from where to buy certain parts to how to assemble a drone.

The cost of making a drone is usually lower than buying an off-the-shelf product, and assembly doesn't require advanced knowledge of mechanics or robotics.

Some Canadian retailers have popped up and begun offering drone parts for hobbyists. Canada Drones, founded four years ago by Dany Thivierge in Mississauga, Ont., started out with the on-



Weird Illuminated Sky Paintings (WISPs) were created with drones and LEDs. CONTRIBUTED

line community at DIYdrones.com. Thivierge realized there was a real need to supply parts to his "fellow geeks." Today, Thivierge counts almost 4,000 customers.

"The growth is what surprised me the most," he says, adding that his sales are well over the million-dollar goal that many businesspeople have when first starting out.

Thivierge is optimistic for future sales in the summer, hinting at some "exciting products" on the way.

"People keep surprising me with never-before-imagined applications for this technology," he says.

In pictures: Metro's Ira Lamacja tests a Parrot drone



1 Remote. Works on most devices

Flying the Parrot AR drone is serious business. I used an iPad most of the time as a remote control but you can also use an iPhone as well as an Android phone or tablet.

2 Camera. Decent, by 2000s standards

The image quality on the camera attached to this drone is surprisingly good. A great deal of detail is captured, and although there is pixelation when the images are enlarged, the photos are still clear, resembling cellphone images from the early 2000s.

3 Handling. Beware of tight spaces

With time, practice and many crash scenes, piloting becomes easier and more instinctive. The Parrot's Styrofoam protection makes it ideal for flying indoors, but beware of flying in small or tight spaces. While the flip function is available, allowing the drone to somersault in the air, I don't recommend it indoors. I tried it once and took out the light in my living room. The Parrot survived.



Church's Chicken and a KFC in Los Angeles on Wednesday. An L.A. ordinance designed to curb obesity in low-income areas by restricting the opening of new fast-food restaurants has failed to reduce fast-food consumption or obesity in the neighbourhoods, according to a new study. DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obesity rates rise despite laws: Study

Health. L.A. hoped to improve diets by restricting the opening of some restaurants

A much-hailed law that restricted the opening of new standalone fast-food restaurants in one of the poorest sections of Los Angeles did not curb obesity or improve diets, a new study found.

City lawmakers passed the zoning ordinance in 2008 that limited the opening or expansion of fast-food outlets in a 32-square-mile area south of Interstate 10 that struggles with high obesity rates and other health problems.

Quoted

"There's no evidence that diets have improved more in South L.A."

Roland Sturm, Rand senior economist

The law, believed to be the first effort of its kind by a major city to improve public health, did not ban new eateries in strip malls.

The research by the Rand Corp. think-tank found that obesity rates in South Los Angeles continued to rise after passage of the law.

Health experts said a single intervention would not reverse the obesity problem. People also have

to exercise and make lifestyle changes, they said.

"It's not just about limiting unhealthy food but increasing access to healthy food," said Alex Ortega, a professor of public health at the University of California, Los Angeles, who had no role in the study.

Before the fast-food ordinance, 63 per cent of South Los Angeles residents reported being overweight or obese compared with 57 per cent in other parts of the county. Three years after the ordinance went into effect, 75 per cent of South Los Angeles residents reported being overweight or obese.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Netanyahu tones down the hardline rhetoric

Days after winning re-election, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday backtracked from hardline statements against the establishment of a Palestinian state in the face of a diplomatic backlash.

In the closing days of his campaign, Netanyahu said there could be no Palestinian state while regional violence and chaos persist — conditions that could rule out progress on the issue for many years. The comments, aimed at appealing to his nationalist voter base, angered the Obama administration, which views a two-state solution as a top foreign policy priority.

Netanyahu said in a TV interview Thursday that he remains committed to Palestinian statehood — if conditions in the region improve



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, seen Thursday at a special meeting of Palestinian leadership, says he doesn't see a serious attempt by Israel to work toward a two-state solution. MAJDI MOHAMMED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

— and to the two-state vision first spelled out in a landmark 2009 speech at Israel's Bar Ilan University.

"I haven't changed my policy," he said in a full interview with MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports, excerpts of

Split remains

The outcome of the Israeli election will only deepen polarization, experts say.

- Benjamin Netanyahu's anti-Arab campaign rhetoric and his rejection of a Palestinian state, they say, will further splinter American Jews into hard left and right camps, and intensify conflicts over what it means to be loyal to the Jewish state.

which were to be shown on NBC's Nightly News later on. "I never retracted my speech."

At the time, he said he would agree to a demilitarized Palestinian state that recognizes Israel as a Jewish state. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tunisia

ISIL takes credit for deadly attack

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility Thursday for the attack that killed 21 people at a museum. But Tunisian authorities said the two slain gunmen had no clear links to extremists, and analysts said existing militant cells are merely being inspired by the group.

Police announced the arrest of five people described as directly tied to the two gunmen who opened fire Wednesday at the National Bardo Museum.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colorado

Woman accused of cutting open pregnant stranger

Documents show a woman accused of cutting open a pregnant woman and removing her unborn baby had told her own family she was pregnant.

The documents obtained Thursday say suspect Dynel Lane asked her husband to accompany her to a pre-natal appointment on Wednesday.

When he came home, the documents say she reported having a miscarriage and showed him a baby gasping for breath in a bathtub. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Norway

Tourist dragged by polar bear

A polar bear dragged a Czech tourist out of his tent as he slept on a remote Arctic island, clawing his back before being driven away by gunshots.

"It was going for my head. I used my hands to protect my head," Jakub Moravec told The Associated Press from his hospital bed.

Zuzana Hakova, a member of the group sleeping in a different tent, told a local newspaper that her mother shot three times at the bear, prompting the animal to flee.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soldiers guilty in civilian deaths

A Polish military court on Thursday convicted four former and current army officers in a retrial over the deaths of six civilians during the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan.

Three received suspended prison terms.

The five-judge panel found the four guilty of negligence in following orders by launching mortar and machine-gun fire on the village of Nangar Khel in 2007.

The court handed a

suspended two-year term to Platoon Commander Tomasz Borysiewicz, who fired the mortar rounds that killed the civilians.

Warrant Officer Andrzej Osiecki received a one-year suspended sentence.

And 2nd Lt. Lukasz Bywalec was given a six-month suspended sentence.

Private First Class Damian Ligocki was found guilty of firing his machine-gun, but the court provisionally did not hand out a punishment. Osiecki was absent

from court.

The court cleared the four of war crimes charges brought by the military prosecutors. They had all pleaded innocent, blaming faulty ammunition and saying the deaths were an accident.

The four were part of a team of seven Polish troops who were stranded near the village while on a patrol in August 2007. They claimed that they came under fire from Taliban forces who later hid in the village. They

said they were aiming at the Taliban hideout, but by accident the mortars hit a home.

Those killed during the incident included women and children; three Afghan women were also injured.

All seven officers were acquitted in 2011, but the prosecutors appealed in the case of the four.

It was the first time Poland's army has held a war crimes trial.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cheaters never prosper ... but their kids can

Indians climb the wall of a building to help students during their examination in Hajipur, in the eastern Indian state of Bihar, Wednesday. Even with police presence at exams, parents and relatives are not afraid to scale buildings in order to pass notes in a bid to help their children cheat. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Solar eclipse. Sky gazers flock to the Faroe Islands

For months, even years, hotels on the remote Faroe Islands have been fully booked by fans who don't want to miss an almost three-minute-long astronomical sensation. Now the sky gazers just hope the clouds will blow away so they can fully experience Friday's total solar eclipse.

Scores of eclipse chasers and scientists have invaded the archipelago armed with telescopes, cameras and glasses for safe direct solar viewing ahead of the big event.

The full eclipse will only be seen in a narrow path across the northern hemisphere, reaching the Faroes at 0945 GMT (6:45 a.m. local time) on Friday.

"This is our 10th total eclipse. We love to watch them and being able to look

at the corona with your eyes in the middle of the eclipse is really an exciting moment, to experience the diamond rings coming and going," said Les Anderson, a 60-year-old from San Diego, Calif., in the Faroe capital of Torshavn.

The population of the 18 rocky islands between Scotland and Iceland has swelled by approximately 10,000 for a few days from its usual 48,000 souls.

"There has never, never been so many people on the islands before," said Theresa Kreutzmann, head of the tourism office in Torshavn.

The Faroe Islands is one of the best places to experience the total eclipse, since the moon will cover the sun completely for two minutes 45 seconds. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Cloudy skies hang over the hills overlooking the town of Eidi, in the north of the Faroe Islands, Thursday. The 10,000 people who have journeyed to the remote island chain are hoping the skies clear for Friday's solar eclipse. MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Solar trip

Historic flight soars toward next destination

A solar-powered airplane on a historic round-the-world journey took off Thursday from the northern Indian town of Varanasi and was headed for its next stop in Myanmar.

Swiss pilots Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg are taking turns flying the aircraft as they attempt to circumnavigate the globe on the journey that was expected to take five months.

The fuel-free aircraft, called the Solar Impulse 2, is powered by more than 17,000 solar cells on its wings that recharge the plane's batteries, enabling it to fly during the day or night.

The single-seat Swiss-made plane was expected to land in Mandalay in Myanmar later Thursday, taking nearly 16 hours to complete the 1,400-kilometre trip over the Bay of Bengal. The plane flies ideally at around 25 knots, or 45 km/h.

The flight has attracted attention around the world from people who see solar power as the fuel of the future, providing a source of clean, renewable energy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What's in Your Beauty Products?

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Every day millions of women slap on body moisturizer, apply lipstick or mascara without a second thought about what they are putting on their skin. A study from the UK claims that the average woman applies more than 500 chemicals to her body every day during her beauty routine.

Why should you be concerned?

Chemicals such as parabens (a synthetic preservative in everything from toothpaste to shampoo) and phthalates (a class of chemicals that are found in many "fragranced" beauty products such as lotions, perfumes and deodorants) are classified as xenoestrogens. Xenoestrogens mimic our natural estrogens creating hormone chaos by increasing the total amount of estrogen, resulting in a condition called estrogen dominance. Estrogen dominance has been implicated in many conditions including: breast and prostate cancer, obesity, infertility, endometriosis, uterine fibroids, early onset puberty, hormonal acne and PMS.

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So starting now, read labels and stay informed, check out The Environmental Working Group website www.ewg.org as well as Campaign for Safe Cosmetics www.safecosmetics.org for more information about how you can protect yourself.

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CRTC puts a \$25 cap on 'skinny' basic TV

Cable and satellite. Regulator also orders service providers to offer pick-and-pay or small bundle packages

Cable and satellite service providers will soon have to offer consumers an "entry-level" television service, at a cost of no more than \$25 a month.

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission released the new

requirements on Thursday, following its lengthy Let's Talk TV hearings last fall.

The new, trimmed-down basic packages must include local channels in each service area, as well as channels currently on the CRTC's mandatory distribution list such as public interest, educational and legislature channels where they're available.

U.S.-based channels that are currently free over the air in most major Canadian markets near the border — so-called 4-plus-1 channels —

will also be included.

It's the first time television service pricing has been regulated in Canada since 1999 and makes it the only jurisdiction in the industrialized world to require that TV distribution companies offer a basic selection of channels.

The national broadcast regulator says the requirement to offer a trimmed-down basic package will take effect by March 2016.

The CRTC says TV viewers will then be able to supplement the so-called "skinny basic" package with either individual channels available through a pick-and-pay model, or what it calls small, "reasonably priced" bundled channel packages.

But service providers will have until the end of next year to offer both a la carte channels and theme packages.

Customers who are happy with their current TV offerings won't have to switch.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



D&G boycott gains momentum

Protesters rally outside the Dolce & Gabbana store in London, Thursday. Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana denigrated surrogacy and same-sex parents in an interview with an Italian magazine last week, prompting Elton John to call for a boycott of the brand. Stars including Martina Navratilova and talk-show host Andy Cohen quickly hopped on board. TIM IRELAND/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Food

Giant doughnut flies off shelves

A Southern California doughnut shop has come up with yet another guilty pleasure gone viral: a gigantic doughnut stuffed with a Pop Tart filling.

Donut Bar, with outlets in Fountain Valley and San Diego, calls the one-pound creation the Big Poppa Tart Donut.

Donut Bar sells about 150 of the doughnuts daily, at \$4 US each.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Retail

Target getting \$1.6B tax break

Target Corp.'s swift exit from Canada will reap about \$1.6 billion US in tax breaks for the retailer in the United States, according to documents filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

The filings say Target made a "strategic shift" in its business when it chose to exit Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Transportation

More Uber cars than cabs in N.Y.C.

New York City's storied yellow cabs are taking a back seat to black cars.

Uber cars, often black sedans, now outnumber the yellow taxis that city riders have hailed with a whistle for generations. Figures released by the city's Taxi and Limousine Commission show 14,088 registered Uber cars compared with 13,587 yellow cabs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tiny Pierre earns spot on new Monopoly

The plastic red hotel will still ruin you, but instead of advancing to Boardwalk to face your demise, you'll take a long walk off a short Pierre ... or rather pier.

Pierre, the tiny South Dakota capital pronounced "peer" by its roughly 14,000 residents, will hold the top spot in a new version of Monopoly featuring U.S. cities coming out this fall. Pierre and 21 other cities will replace the properties in the original 1935 game named after places in Atlantic City, N.J.

Hasbro Inc. left it to voters to choose which cities would appear in this version and another that will feature the names of world cities. More than four million votes were cast, and Pierre, the second-smallest state capital, came out first. It will pair with Minneapolis — the new Park Place — to bankrupt opponents unlucky to spend a night at one of their swanky hotels. Penny-pinchers — or those hoarding white \$1 bills — can spend a turn in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

Quoted

"We got the community engaged ..."

Laurie Gill, who serves as mayor of Pierre outside of her day job. She was talking about the massive campaign to get South Dakotans to help land Pierre on the board.

The new versions celebrate the 80 years of hoarding fake cash and bankrupting family members during summer vacations. But it's the third consecutive year that Hasbro has turned to social media to decide on tweaks to its popular game. Previously, fans decided to add a cat token and retired

the iron, and they were also invited to incorporate their favourite "house" rules into the wider game.

There will be other changes to the new versions, including a faster style of play in which players collect different properties in their passport to win.

The idea of adorning the

world-famous monopoly board with Pierre, an old government town whose Capitol building still has saloon-style doors on the bathroom stalls, captivated local officials, media and residents.

The city's part-time mayor Laurie Gill took to the local radio stations, teachers developed class activities around the contest and the state tourism department sent out social media blasts encouraging South Dakotans to help land Pierre on the board.

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VOICES

SILENCE DOESN'T LEAD TO CHANGE



THE KOHLER REPORT

By Rebecca Kohler

Would you like a biscotti with your coffee or would you prefer a conversation about a white cop shooting a black man in Ferguson? They'd certainly both give you something to chew on.

If you haven't heard, Starbucks has launched an awareness campaign called Race Together in which they're asking their baristas in U.S. stores to strike up conversations with customers about race relations. If you're wondering if Pumpkin Spice is considered a race, it's not.

The good news is that people of all races have united on social media in HATING this idea, so maybe that's a great start?

I don't like to be a fence-sitter, but I'm really torn on this one. Part of me likes it, the other part is ever so slightly throwing up in my mouth. Let's discuss.

The cynical, vomitus side of me sees this is a corporation possibly capitalizing on the idea of discrimination. "Hey! Maybe if we act like we care about this issue, people will buy more rustic egg-white breakfast sandwiches!... Oh no, is it racist to say egg-white? Change that to no-yolk."

This reminds me of Bell's Let's Talk campaign, which was Bell Canada's way of raising awareness about mental illness.

While I'm all for hearing about people's struggles with depression, etc. (I have my own), it turned my tum to see them hashtag their stories on Facebook with the phone company's name.

Should an admission of having felt suicidal double as an advertisement for an Internet service provider?

There's also just the fact that this idea seems impractical.

What happens if a discussion gets deep and the barista can't keep up with the orders? If Race Together were happening in Canada and I was in line, I wouldn't want to find myself resenting a well-meaning conversation about whether or not a niqab is appropriate attire for a Canadian citizenship ceremony.

And I'm usually in a rush when I go to Starbucks — I wouldn't want to look flippant should someone ask me about Canada's treatment of indigenous people: "Yeah, yeah, it's terrible. Gotta go!"

Then there's the part of me that thinks this is a great idea that should be commended and a lead that should be followed.

Let's talk ... but maybe not right now

I'm usually in a rush when I go to Starbucks — I wouldn't want to look flippant should someone ask me about Canada's treatment of indigenous people: "Yeah, yeah, it's terrible. Gotta go!"

No, it's not perfect, in that, as many have pointed out, the baristas aren't race relations experts and the Starbucks customer demographic is largely young and privileged.

But does that mean they just shouldn't talk? Is that ever a better solution? Maybe if they talk to each other they will learn things. There was a time I didn't know how to tie my shoes — should I have kept silent on the matter because I was an ignoramus?

No. Had I not conversed about laces with my parents, I'd be tripping all over myself to this day.

Like with Bell Let's Talk campaign — at least people were talking, right? The more this stuff

gets talked about, the better. Discussions spark thoughts, questions and curiosities. Convo in Starbucks will bleed into workplace and home. Silence doesn't lead to change, conversations do.

This softer side of me also believes that the man behind this ideological plan, Starbucks chief executive Howard Schultz, is genuinely trying to do a good thing (while also selling scones).

Others aren't so convinced, wanting to know, for instance, if he's so "concerned" why only 16 per cent of Starbucks executives are people of colour?

Well, that's an interesting statistic. Maybe that's the kind of thing you could discuss with a barista at Starbucks — a barista who might then discuss it with her manager who might mention the conversation at an annual Starbucks conference.

Maybe it'll get into Howard Schultz's ear and he'll take it to heart and make change? Or, yeah, I guess we could just not talk at all.

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter at @becca_kohler

Happy face/Sad face

From cooking in Walmart to getting kicked out of Ikea, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:



METH LAB BUST AT WALMART

Where's the health and safety committee when you need it? A Walmart washroom in Indiana was shut down after an employee discovered a mobile meth lab inside a backpack left there. Perhaps the weirdest part of this story is that this was not an isolated incident, with others cooking up a storm at various Walmarts over the years. Police say mobile labs are a growing trend with those who'd rather not risk the chance of explosions in their own homes, but we don't think this is what the Walmart people meant by Save Money, Live Better.



A CLASSIC TAIL

Dear heartbroken person whose beloved pet went missing: We hope you will find some measure of comfort in this story. Kevin the orange tabby went AWOL in South Carolina a few years back, but turned up in Palm Springs this week when a woman found him hitched to her U-Haul trailer. Once reunited with Kevin, his owner joked that he's seen more of the country than she has, but if Kevin has taught her — and us — anything, surely it's that there is always hope.



BUDDHA BAN

In a move that's about as far from enlightenment as you can get, three men in Myanmar will spend the next two and a half years in prison for posting an image of Buddha wearing headphones on their Facebook page. After getting complaints, the trio apologized for their "ignorance," but that didn't stop the judge from convicting them of denigrating the religion. In a small, symbolic act of solidarity, we're republishing the offending image here.



BELLE ÉPOQUE

Model life: Now with more croissants. If France passes a proposed law, it'll join other countries like Spain, Italy and Israel in banning the use of extremely thin models in the fashion industry. The legislation would require agencies to get medical certificates from models to prove that they have a healthy BMI and models would have to get routine checkups.



CONSUMERS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN

Ikea always seemed like such a fun company with their ball rooms, delightfully — albeit suspiciously — cheap breakfasts and the über-funky spellings. But even cool corporations have their limits. The Swedish multinational drew its line in the sand with giant hide-and-seek parties in the Netherlands that drew thousands to Ikea stores. The furniture giant said that while it doesn't like being a spoilsport, safety comes first. We're not sure where the party is being moved to, but it's probably best they steer clear of Walmarts in Indiana for the time being.



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Penning a list of Sean's great roles

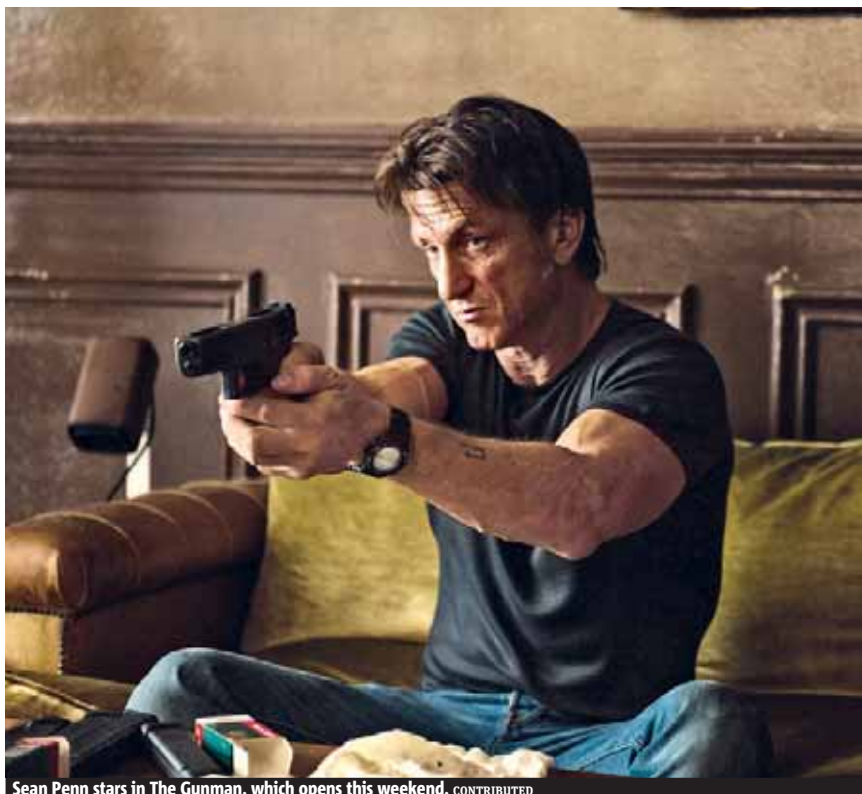
Analysis. The *Gunman* star says he forgets films he's worked on within a week of wrapping. Here's a rundown to jog his memory

Sean Penn is back on the big screen this weekend in *The Gunman*, his first leading role in almost four years. It can't rightly be called a comeback because he never really went away. Supporting roles in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* and *Gangster Squad* have generated column inches, but in the last five years he has devoted more energy to raising money for earthquake relief in Haiti than being a movie star.

In the film, he plays Special Forces military contractor Jim Terrier. By day he protects foreign workers in the Democratic Republic of Congo, but he moonlights as a hired gunman for big corporations. His assassination of the Congolese Mining Minister forces him to flee the country and changes the course of his entire life.

It's what Penn jokingly calls "geriaction," an action movie starring a middle-aged actor. Other than that, don't expect to hear him speak a great deal about his new film. "Honestly within a week after I've finished shooting a film I've almost forgotten it," he said recently.

In February he was honoured with an honorary César Award for "choosing his films with sensitivity and commitment." At the ceremony, the "legend in his lifetime" watched a clip reel spanning the width and breadth of his career, including excerpts from *Dead Men Walking*, *Mystic River* and *Milk*.



Sean Penn stars in *The Gunman*, which opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE



Later the actor said, "I remember playing none of those scenes. I remembered the movies (but) I saw myself in scenes with actors I didn't even know I'd ever worked with!"

To jog Mr. Penn's memory here's a list of some of his memorable roles:

1. In *Milk*, Penn won a best actor Oscar playing the real-life Harvey Milk, a native New Yorker who became America's first openly gay man to be elected to public office. Penn fully embraces Milk,

from the thick New York accent that characterized his speech to the goofy grin that endeared the real-life activist to his supporters, both gay and straight.

2. *This Must Be The Place* is a rare thing. I speak of that elusive beast *Pennigma Seanun comedia* — the Sean Penn comedy. He plays a retired and world-weary American rock star living with his wife (Frances McDormand) in Ireland. This is Sean Penn like we've never seen him before. With poufy hair, black toenail polish and affected vocal cadence — like Andy Warhol on Quaaludes — he creates an intriguing, strange character.

Richard's ratings

The Divergent Series: Insurgent

.....

The Gunman

.....

Tracers

.....

3. In Hollywood dramedy *Hurly Burly*, Penn played against type as Eddie, the hyperactive casting agent. It's an emotionally raw performance — witness Eddie try and use cocaine to snort away his troubles — but one without the studied glumness that he frequently brings to the screen.

4. *Fair Game* could be retitled *One Hundred Minutes of Sean Penn Yelling 'If We Don't Tell the Truth No One Will!'* He's Joseph Wilson, the real-life whistleblower who claimed the Bush administration falsified information about the existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Penn is passionate, crafting a performance so big it has its own gravitational pull.

5. Finally there's *All The King's Men*, a movie memorable for all the wrong reasons. Penn is a fine actor, but as Willie Stark, (loosely based on Louisiana governor Huey P. Long) he is so over the top it's as if he's acting in a different movie than the rest of the cast. It's a vein-popping, arm-waving performance that suggests that maybe he should lay off the Red Bull.

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Typecasting makes Sean Penn cranky

Movies. The actor of a certain age follows in the footsteps of Harrison Ford and Liam Neeson with *Gunman* — just don't tell him that

NED
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Metro in NYC

Sean Penn is just trying to promote his new film, *The Gunman*, but people keep bringing up the Oscars and that whole “green card” joke he made when *Birdman* won Best Picture.

“I’m always surprised by flagrant stupidity. I keep having more hope,” he says.

“I have absolutely no apologies. In fact, I have a big f— you for anybody who is so stupid not to have gotten the irony when you’ve got a country that is so xenophobic. If they had their way, you wouldn’t have great filmmakers like Alejandro (Gonzalez Inarritu) working in this country. Thank God we do.”

As for critics who lambasted the actor for insensitivity on the immigration issue, he has some even more direct words: “I think they can be a bit more cheerful,” Penn says with a shrug. “I think what’s most offensive is we’re attaching a protective sensibility to something which is meant to create self-censorship in people’s interactions.



Sean Penn stars in *The Gunman*. CONTRIBUTED

“I think that when somebody as special as Alejandro makes a film as special as *Birdman* was, that if he has a friend on stage, that maybe that friend wants to let him know that he won privately for a moment before the room knows and he did, cause there was a history there. So I wanted him to know it first, and that’s who

I was talking to, so I don’t give a f— about all those other people.”

But about *The Gunman*.

It’s directed by Pierre Morel, who made Liam Neeson an action star with *Taken*.

And given that Penn is also a respected actor of a certain age, natural comparisons have been drawn — not

that he agrees with the assessment.

“I thought Harrison Ford made a whole career on this stuff and I didn’t think it was considered, like, a new trend or anything like that — what I call geriaction,” Penn says.

“But there are aspects of this that have nothing to do with that, also. Admittedly there’s a tremendous

amount of action, one can’t say it’s not an action movie, but it’s a different kind of movie also because it’s not a ‘wink at the audience’ movie. This is more straight.”

But action is action, and Penn, who got in impressive shape for the film — a shape he shows off by ditching his shirt whenever possible — didn’t escape entirely with-

Quited

“There was an extraordinarily achy body at the end of the film, but that’s accumulative.”

Sean Penn
on the results of starring in the action film
The Gunman

out injuries.

“Little ones,” he admits. “We got away without anything serious happening. There was an extraordinarily achy body at the end of the film, but that’s accumulative.”

Even if *The Gunman* enjoys Taken levels of success, he’s not necessarily eyeing a franchise, and not just because of the aches and pains.

“I’ve never looked at a movie as beyond a movie, and in that case I wouldn’t allow myself to think about that.

“I hope the best for this movie, we worked hard, a lot of people have worked hard and invested in this. I got projects I want to direct and that’s what I want to focus on.”

Of course, ask him immediately after he’s finished filming, and he’d tell you he’ll never make another movie again, sequel or no sequel.

“I think if I can remember what it feels like after it’s done, that I would never do it again,” Penn admits. “But it’s a perishable awareness.”

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Action/Adventure



The Gunman

Director. Pierre Morel

Stars. Sean Penn, Idris Elba

The Gunman, the new action thriller from Pierre Morel, the director of Taken, stars Sean Penn, Javier Bardem, Idris Elba, Ray Winstone and Mark Rylance.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 17% Audience: +90%

Adventure/Sci-Fi



The Divergent Series: Insurgent

Director. Robert Schwentke

Stars. Shailene Woodley, Theo James

In this thrilling and nail-biting entry in the Divergent series, Tris and Four seek refuge outside the city with the Amity faction. They convene with other Divergents and exiled survivors, and plot to fight back against the warmongering Dauntless and despot Jeanine Matthews.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet Audience: +75%

Mystery/Suspense



Run All Night

Director. Jaume Collet-Serra

Stars. Liam Neeson, Natalie Martinez

Liam Neeson reunites with Unknown director Jaume Collet-Serra for this Warner Bros. thriller following a mob hit man and his estranged son (Joel Kinnaman) as they flee the wrath of a vengeful crime boss.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 59% Audience: +90%

Action & Adventure



Chappie

Director. Neill Blomkamp

Stars. Hugh Jackman, Sharlto Copley

In the near future, crime is patrolled by an oppressive mechanized police force. But now, the people are fighting back. When one police droid, Chappie, is stolen and given new programming, he becomes the first robot with the ability to think and feel for himself.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 30% Audience: +94%

Sci-Fi & Fantasy/Romance



Cinderella

Director. Kenneth Branagh

Stars. Lily James, Cate Blanchett

Cate Blanchett stars in this new vision of the Cinderella tale from director Kenneth Branagh and the screenwriting team of Chris Weitz and Aline Brosh McKenna for Disney Pictures.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 88% Audience: +98%

Drama/Comedy



Focus

Director. John Requa, Glenn Ficarra

Stars. Will Smith, Rodrigo Santoro

A con artist (Will Smith) takes on an inexperienced apprentice in this crime comedy from the filmmaking duo behind Crazy Stupid Love: Glenn Ficarra and John Requa.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 55% Audience: 62%

Biopic. Disney Channel green lights movie about Little League sensation



Mo'ne Davis, who last summer made history as the first girl to pitch a shutout in the Little League World Series, is serving as a consultant on a Disney Channel movie set to be made about her life. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Little League pitching sensation Mo'ne Davis will be the subject of a Disney Channel movie.

The network says development is underway on the biographical film, titled Throw Like Mo. It will tell the story of the 13-year-old who last summer made history as the first girl to pitch a shutout in the Little League World Series.

A member of Philadel-

phia's Taney Dragons, Davis then became the first Little Leaguer to make the cover of Sports Illustrated magazine.

She will serve as a consultant on the movie, which she hopes will encourage viewers to believe that dreams can really come true.

Disney Channel didn't specify an airdate or cast. But Davis says she can't wait to get started.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New projects

Sarah Polley tapped to pen Little Women adaptation

Little Women is set to make a return to the big screen with a new remake produced by Sony.

Oscar-nominated screenwriter Sarah Polley has been drafted to adapt Louisa May Alcott's classic post-Civil War American tale, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

The book was first published in 1868 and was most recently adapted for screen in 1994 in a version starring Kirsten Dunst and Claire Danes.

It follows the lives of four sisters Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy March.

Former Sony co-chairman Amy Pascal will act as producer. AFP

Sarah Polley
AFP



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TAKEN

★★★★★
— Little White Lies

"SMART AND INTENSE"
— Fandango

SEAN PENN

THE GUNMAN

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The kids haven't changed, we have

The Breakfast Club.

After 30 years, breakout teen film's flaws exposed

CHRIS
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Make no mistake, for better or worse, late writer-director John Hughes was the titan of '80s teen angst, responsible for a slew of pictures that aimed to humorously examine the average American teenager while amassing much critical acclaim and box-office success in the process.

But Hughes' magnum opus is, without question 1985's *The Breakfast Club*, a talky tale in which five misfit teens endure a day of Saturday detention together and ultimately realize that they're not so different after all.

Sure, the film is often funny and the then-young cast is game, with Anthony Michael-Hall, Ally Sheedy and Judd Nelson standouts with their expert comic timing and dramatic chops.

But for all its good intentions and repote, the hard truth is that *The Breakfast Club* stands more today as an exercise in high camp than a realistic peek into high school life.

The fact that anyone once took it seriously at all is a potent indictment of just how shallow and naive the "me decade" truly was.

In honour of the film's 30th anniversary, Cineplex is bringing it back to theatres for two showings on March 21 and 25.

Here Metro takes a brief look at some of *The Breakfast Club*'s least appetizing elements — a list sure to offend those who grew up with the film.

Get over it, kids!

These whiny, self-obsessed kids may have a few hang-ups, but suffering to the point of sympathy? Hardly. From Hall's suicide attempt after getting a bad grade in shop class, to Sheedy's dandruff, none of it rings true. Even troubled, boorish bad boy Judd Nelson somehow makes it to detention on time. The fact that Nelson even shows up to detention at all, single-handedly revokes his cartoonish anti-establishment status.



Sexual assault ain't funny

If *Sixteen Candles* had date rape played for laughs, the scene in which Nelson, hiding under Molly Ringwald's desk, eyeballing her crotch and biting down hard while she stifles her shock to save face, is equally wrong.

Designed to be lewdly amusing, it's just kind of unpleasant, with Hughes suggesting that Ringwald is only mildly annoyed by the incident, in turn painting Nelson as nothing more than a brat, rather than the criminal he is.

Everyone's white

Hughes' previous film *Sixteen Candles* stands as one of the most racist teen films ever (Long Duck Dong, anyone?) so for *The Breakfast Club*, he decided to just paint the screen alabaster and call it a day.

Everyone here is white. And clean. And well-fed, and witty.

Including the faculty.

Emilio Estevez's dance

Add up the most cringe-inducing moments seen on screen in the '80s and all of them combined wouldn't come close to equalling the operatic shame of seeing a stoned Estevez break into the most awesomely idiotic dance in film history.

Said spastic herky-jerky is meant to signify Estevez's rebellion against the confines of his father's athletic expectations, or something.

Whatever the hell it is, it's a jaw-dropper!



Mexico's image-conscious government did not want the new James Bond film Spectre to feature a Mexican villain, according to leaked Sony emails. Spectre premieres later this year, on November 6. CONTRIBUTED

Bond baddie couldn't be Mexican: Reports

Production. Mexican government offered tax breaks for filming Spectre in the country in exchange for a better image, according to leaked Sony emails

money after the government offered \$14 million in tax incentives in return for a better image.

The website taxanalysts.com, citing leaked Sony emails, reported that the requests for the script included having an international leader assassinated instead of Mexico City's mayor, and that Bond's nemesis should not be Mexican.

"I think we never had

the villain as Mexican so it wasn't something we had to change," Wilson said, acknowledging that it was among "some of the issues" authorities had raised. "The villain was always an Italian."

The government provided technical support, like getting permits to shoot in certain locations or advising on things such as which security force would be involved in certain situa-

tions, he said. "It's more like us asking questions and then discussing it with (Mexican authorities) than them demanding anything in the way of changing" the screenplay, he said.

"I know they want to see, they would love to see Mexico in a good light and we are not here to put Mexico in a bad light," Wilson said, refusing to confirm how much the government offered in tax incentives.

Wilson said a Mexican joint venture that was formed to support tourism helped filmmakers secure "financial and practical support," but he did not elaborate.

AFF

Casting

Bond girl wasn't worried about her country's image

Stephanie Sigman, the first Bond Girl from Mexico, said she was never worried about how her country would be depicted in the film. "I have made all kinds of movies, which look at good

and bad sides, and I think there are many layers in countries, situations and including in us as human beings," she said. Wilson said producers always planned to have a Mexican Bond girl, denying reports that it was one of the government's demands.



AFF

Interview. Aubrey Plaza would love to join the Marvel Cinematic Universe

Aubrey Plaza has made a name for herself in the comedy and independent film world with projects like the recently wrapped Parks and Recreation and her SXSW film premiere, Fresno. But that doesn't mean she wouldn't be down to suit up for something in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

"I would love to play some kind of badass superhero, that would be awesome. I'm sure everyone would. What's not to love about that?" Plaza says. "I would love that. I mean, the reason I do movies is I like to be transported, and any kind of supernatural element in movies, I love that

kind of stuff. I really like doing grounded, indie movies also, but the reason I fell in love with acting and movies was because I wanted to, like, play an alien from another dimension, do things that only happen in your imagination. So the Marvel world is totally up my alley. But you must be chosen for those kinds of movies. So hopefully, someday."

The only question, of course, is which comic-book character she could play. I'm going to go with Spider-Woman. Or maybe a new female Hawkeye.

NED EHRBAR/
METRO IN AUSTIN



New projects

Paul Feig dishes on Ghostbusters

While at SXSW to premiere Spy, director Paul Feig gave Metro an update on his next project with Melissa McCarthy, the all-female Ghostbusters.

His reaction to the news about that other, all-male Ghostbusters was a surprise. "I'd heard rumblings about it. It was just a bummer that the media played it as a men versus women thing, because that was nobody's intention. Honestly, I'm not sure what their master plan is. All I can

do is concentrate on my four ladies, who are going to kick ass."

And he's been the target of online vitriol for helming an all-female Ghostbusters cast. "I've read plenty of angry tweets like, 'Just because that's the way you see it, you're going to ruin it for everybody else.' I'm always sympathetic to people's feelings on this stuff, but it really has exposed a lot. It's really s—ty, but it's also the curse of anonymity. People can just be f—ing assholes because it's easy, because you're not accountable for it at all."

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Beyond Beverly Hills bad girl

Interview. Shannen Doherty is a far cry from bratty Brenda

Jason Priestley wrote about fellow Beverly Hills, 90210 alum Shannen Doherty in his tell-all memoir, but don't expect her to do the same.

Doherty, who will attend Toronto ComiCon this weekend, admits she "lived too publicly" in her 20s and now enjoys a "very private" life.

As such, she wouldn't want to spill details about her family members, friends or co-stars in book form, says the actress.

"I've always felt that memoirs should be about yourself and not about others, because personally, I just find it to be rude to write bad things about other people," says Doherty, 43, in a telephone interview.

"But that goes to an old saying that my mom raised me with, which is, 'If you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all.'"

"I always think, even if I worked with someone, I have no idea what they were personally going through during that time period, so who am I to judge someone else?"

Doherty adds that she's always viewed a TV or film set "as a very, very, very private sanctuary."

Quoted

"I was miserable playing her after a while. I was like, 'God, there's just so much angst and drama in this girl's life.'"

Shannen Doherty on her 90210 character Brenda Walsh



Shannen Doherty says she'd be up for starring in a scripted TV series again. GETTY IMAGES

Details

- Doherty, who starred in the 1998 movie *Heathers* with Winona Ryder, right, will appear at Toronto ComiCon this weekend, Fan Expo Vancouver (April 3-5) and Fan Expo Regina (April 25-26).



God they got it while I still looked really good," Doherty says with a laugh.

She says she would like to star on a scripted TV series again, but it would have to be a role she could stand to play for several years — unlike her character Brenda Walsh from Beverly Hills, 90210.

"When Brenda changed and became sort of bratty, I started hating her," says Doherty. "I was miserable playing her after a while. I was like, 'God, there's just so much angst and drama in this girl's life.'"

Doherty left Beverly Hills, 90210 after the fourth season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Interview. Nigel Barker heaps praise on Canadian model Coco Rocha

In Nigel Barker's profiles of models that helped shape the fashion industry, a cluster of Canadians make the cut — and Coco Rocha ranks high on the photographer's list.

"I'm a big fan of Coco," Barker said of the Toronto-born, Richmond, B.C.-raised Rocha, one of 50 famous faces featured in his new book *Models of Influence* (Harper Design).

"I believe that she will be seen as a supermodel of the era when we look back because of many things. Not just the fact that she's successful and she has many magazine covers and all the rest of it, but really how she's utilized social media — one of the very first models to understand that medium."

Barker, host of modelling competition series *The Face*, said social media has played a pivotal role in further propelling the careers of models and other celebrities, translating to appearances in high-profile campaigns and fashion editorials.

"The designers and the editors and the photographers see who has the most likes, and hence, Kim Kardashian (and) Kanye West on the cover of *Vogue*; Kate Upton on the cover of *Vanity Fair*," said the



Nigel Barker
THE CANADIAN PRESS

former America's Next Top Model judge. "You can say it may not just be that, but I think we all know it's playing a large part."

Barker draws on the archives of leading fashion photographers — including the late Richard Avedon, Irving Penn and Herb Ritts — for images to illustrate his profiles of noteworthy female models from the 1940s to the present.

Among those featured are one-name wonders Iman and Twiggy, '70s stars Jerry Hall and Lauren Hutton, supermodels Tyra Banks, Cindy Crawford and Naomi Campbell and modern-day phenoms Gisele Bündchen and Cara Delevingne.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Coco Rocha GETTY IMAGES



Being all over the place can be a good thing.

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Mekhi Phifer is just along for the ride



Mekhi Phifer plays Max in The Divergent Series: Insurgent, out this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Insurgent. The actor says he picks his roles based on what's good, plain and simple



RICHARD
CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Years before Mekhi Phifer played the stern-faced Dauntless enforcement officer Max in this weekend's The Divergent Series: Insurgent, he displayed a dauntless attitude that got him his first acting job.

The year was 1994, the movie was Spike Lee's Clockers and over 1,000 people showed up for an open casting call.

"I went with my cousin," he says, "not knowing anything about the audition or open casting call process. Spike Lee auditioned me about seven or eight different times. I had to read with Harvey Keitel and Isaiah Washington and do improvisations. I had never done that type of stuff before so to have

gotten that was a whirlwind; I just thought that was the norm. That's how you cast movies — a thousand people come in."

He won the lead role and parlayed that into a string of memorable characters in movies like 8 Mile, and TV shows like ER, where he played Dr. Greg Pratt for six seasons and the Dr. Who spinoff, the sci-fi series Torchwood: Miracle Day.

"I am a big fan of sci-fi," he says. "And that was part of the allure (to signing on for the Divergent series), but the other part was that it was good. I'm not looking for one particular genre or one particular type of film. I usually just gravitate towards what's good."

He plays Max, leader of Dauntless, the warrior bloc of a Big Brother-style government that has divided the post-apocalyptic Chicago into five factions. In the new film, his job is to hunt down and capture fugitives Tris (Shailene Woodley) and boyfriend Four (Theo James) because she is divergent — a person who cannot be pigeonholed into just one designation.

"He's not a villain at all in

No spoilers for Phifer

Phifer hasn't read the Veronica Roth books that make up the source material for the films. "For me it seemed like more fun to do the series and then read the books and compare." So he's not sure what's going to happen with his character, but he hopes Max comes back for next year's instalment, Allegiant: Part 1.

- "I don't know what's happening next, so I'm on the journey with the audience," he says. "I would love to see some of who he is come full circle."

any way, shape or form," he says. "He's tasked with protecting the society and I really feel that he believes in expunging the divergents and the rebel factions. He's not doing it in a malicious way. He's not getting pleasure from other people's pain. He looks at it as a necessary evil."

Insurgent's rebellious women break the action movie mould

On the surface, Insurgent, with its dystopian setting and teenage heroine, might just seem like another by-the-numbers young adult tale. Look a little closer and it's clear that this second instalment isn't merely capitalizing on a popular genre, but, with its half dozen female leads and supporting characters, actually represents a subtle subversion of what audiences have been taught action films should be.

When women lead up action-driven films and franchises, it's usually one exceptional gal against the world. Here, they're all over the place, serving as leaders, radicals and rebels, each wildly



Shailene Woodley stars in The Divergent Series: Insurgent. BOTH PHOTOS LIONSGATE

diverse, complicated, charismatic and flawed in their own unique way. Insurgent, out Friday, picks up shortly after the events of the first film, and finds Tris (Shailene Woodley) exposed as a state-wanted "divergent," or someone who doesn't fit into the five designated factions, and on the run from Jeanine (Kate Winslet), the controlling, ruthless leader whose goal is to extradite Tris's kind from the society.

On a path to self-actualization, Tris encounters a number of adults hoping to mould her in their image, including franchise newcomers Johanna (Octavia Spencer), the stoic Amity leader with the mysterious scar on her face, and Evelyn (Naomi Watts), a factionless revolutionary with cryptic motives who also hap-

pens to be the estranged mother of Tris's boyfriend Four (Theo James).

Credit for populating the world with strong female characters goes to author Veronica Roth, who saw Insurgent as a chance to really flesh out the environment around Tris.

"It was very intentional for me that most of the leaders in Tris's world would be women, and not necessarily the good guys all the time," said Roth on a recent afternoon in Los Angeles.

"I think it's equally important to have female villains. When people notice that there's not a lot of representation in a particular area they try to make those characters holy symbols that are pure and good. That does a disservice to women." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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VISIT

TO ENTER

Hoffman gets to play at his first love in music role



Dustin Hoffman plays a choirmaster in *Boychoir*. CONTRIBUTED

Movie. Wannabe-musician-turned-actor tickled to star as *Boychoir's* choirmaster



RICHARD
CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

As an actor, two-time Academy Award winner Dustin Hoffman has created some indelible characters — *Midnight Cowboy's* Ratso Rizzo and *Tootsie* to name a couple — but from an early age he dreamed of being a professional pianist.

"I wanted to be a musician but I was never talented enough," he says, "so I'm not a musician. I have small hands — and by the way there is no correlation to your hands and personal parts — so I can't reach much more than an octave."

In the new film *Boychoir* he shows his musical side playing a choirmaster to a group of

talented youngsters.

As a young man, he studied classical piano, but when it became apparent he'd never turn pro, he tried his hand at acting.

"I had been flunking out of junior college and somebody said, 'Try acting. Nobody flunks acting.'"

Enrolling at the Pasadena Playhouse, he shared a room with Robert Duvall and studied with Gene Hackman.

"No one told me I was a good actor," he says. "No one told Gene, and there was a third person, Duvall. They are both much, much older than me. If someone was to say to the three of us in those early days that we were going to be successful, forget about being movie stars, everyone would have laughed. It's kind of a freak

accident that it happened to all three of us."

Hoffman's big break came in the form of Benjamin Braddock in *The Graduate*. Robert Redford was considered for the part, but director Mike Nichols rejected the traditionally handsome actor — "You can't play it," he told Redford. "You can never play a loser" — in favour of the unknown Hoffman. *The Graduate* made him a star and is now considered a classic, but almost 50 years later he remembers how the critics savaged his performance.

The barbs hurt at the time, but he doesn't let them get under his skin any more. "Critics are ... I shouldn't say," he laughs, "I don't know if anyone grows up saying, 'When I grow up, I want to be a critic.'"

Quoted

"I had been flunking out of junior college and somebody said, 'Try acting, Nobody flunks acting.'"

Dustin Hoffman

It's 'so nice not to be on social media,' Azalea may stay away

Missing Iggy Azalea on social media? You may have to get used to it.

The rapper, who has spent the last week off of Twitter and Instagram, said she may not return to the popular networks.

"Yeah, so nice not to be on social media so I'm kind of going to continue that until, maybe forever," she said in an interview with *The Associated Press* early Thursday.

Azalea's management has been posting on her social media accounts since she announced she was taking a break. In her last Instagram post, she wrote about paparazzo invading her privacy by taking photos of her outside her home.

"I think it's disgusting," Azalea said backstage at the Samsung Milk Music Lounge during South by Southwest in Austin, Texas, where she was the headline act. "I don't think it's nice to stick your camera through somebody's fence and hedge and take a picture of them in their yard and think that's OK at all." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Iggy Azalea GETTY IMAGES

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A very Canadian way to welcome spring, eh

Appetizer. Celebrate the new season with this Sesame and Maple Appetizer Bread



RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

Want to take maple syrup in a savoury direction? Do it with this recipe that honours Canada's most beloved export.

Dough

1. In a bowl, combine the water and maple syrup. Set aside.

2. In bowl with a wooden spoon, combine flour, yeast and salt. Add the water mixture and combine into a soft ball. Knead the dough for about 3 minutes

Ingredients

Dough

- 1/2 cup (125 ml) warm water
- 1/2 tsp (1 1/2 ml) maple syrup
- 1 1/4 cups (175 g) unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp instant dry yeast
- 1 tsp salt

Topping

- 1/4 cup (35 g) toasted sesame seeds
- Freshly ground pepper, to taste
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) olive oil
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) maple syrup
- Fleur de sel



This recipe serves eight. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

on a floured surface.

3. Place dough in clean and lightly oiled bowl. Coat dough with the oil. Cover bowl with damp cloth and leave in a warm and moist place for about 1 hour or until the dough has doubled in volume.

Topping

1. On a work surface sprinkled

with sesame seeds, roll half of the dough at a time into an 8-inch (20 cm) disc, taking care to coat with sesame seeds. Sprinkle pepper on each side of the dough and press lightly to make it adhere.

2. In a non-stick skillet over medium heat, brown 1 bread at a time in half the oil for about 2 minutes on each side. Add 1 tbsp

of maple syrup and caramelize one side of the bread. Flip the bread on a cutting board. Cut in half and then cut into 1/2-inch (1.5 cm) strips. Sprinkle with salt. Clean the pan before cooking the second bread. Serve with a glass of cider or beer. FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED IN 2014.

Liquid Assets

Spring in a bottle



LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

My calendar lies.

It says that today is the first day of spring. Out my window here in Nova Scotia, it's beginning to look a lot more like Christmas.

Even with snow on the ground, I'm embracing the change of seasons by diving into a glass of something white, ripe and fruity.

Though fruitier reds have hogged the spotlight of late, there's nothing like a bright, floral white when it comes to expressing the liquid personality of spring.

Argentina's Torrontés grape is a highly aromatic berry that smells so good you'd almost be tempted to dab a little behind each ear.

Sometimes all that perfume can be a bit much, so it's often blended with other grapes to soften the assault on your nasal passages.

While Fuzion's 2013 Alta Torrontés Pinot Grigio (\$9.95 - \$12.99) still smells great, the addition of a touch of fresh, citrusy Pinot Grigio brings out the fleshy pear and stone fruit of the Torrontés.



A good match with spicy Asian cuisine, grilled chicken and fresh shellfish.

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Rainmen forward Tyrone Watson tries to get around the Island Storms' Cordell Jeanty during playoff action Thursday night at the Scotiabank Centre. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Rainmen rumble to Game 1 victory

NBL Canada. After early jitters, forward Young goes off to lead Halifax past Storm



KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE
kristen.lipscombe@metronews.ca

The Halifax Rainmen's confidence on the court came through Thursday night, rewarding them with a 117-99 win to claim the first game of their second round playoff series against the Island

| Game 1 | |
|---------|-------|
| 117 | 99 |
| Rainmen | Storm |

Storm.

"Before the game, coach gave us a speech about having confidence in ourselves," forward Kevin Young, who led the Rainmen with 36 points and eight rebounds, said after the game at the Scotiabank Centre.

"I think we went out there tonight, and we showed him that we did have confidence," Young said. "And he has confidence as well in us, to put us in the game."

It took about half a quarter for the local NBL Canada boys to find their footing, as the Island Storm jumped to a 16-7 lead midway through the first. A 'Pep' talk from head coach Josep Claros settled them down quickly, with the Rainmen snagging a 26-24 lead going into the second.

Halifax continued to pick up momentum, heading into halftime with a 60-49 lead, finishing up the third leading

91-72 and never allowing the Charlottetown-based Storm to crack the 100-mark on the scoreboard.

Shooting guard Joey Haywood added 17 points, while forward Tyrone Watson had 15 points and seven rebounds.

"We had some lapses in the first half, and in the second half we kind of got caught up with the calls and officiating," Watson said. "But it was a pretty smooth game."

The Rainmen will try to make it two straight against the Island Storm in Game 2 of the series Friday night at the Scotiabank Centre. Tip-off is at 7 p.m.

QMJHL

Mooseheads set to face Wildcats this Sunday

The Halifax Mooseheads' match-up against the Moncton Wildcats that was postponed due to this week's "severe weather" has a make-up date.

The game originally scheduled for Wednesday, March 18 is now set for this Sunday, March 22, with a 4 p.m. puck drop at the Scotiabank Centre.

"The Mooseheads would like to thank their fans for their patience while the league waited to come this conclusion," a statement on the team website said.

Ticket holders can use their tickets from Wednesday night for this Sunday's game or receive a refund from the Ticket Atlantic box office until Friday, March 27. **METRO**

Super-G

Canada's Cook caps season with gold

At a crossroads just a few months ago, Canada's Dustin Cook proved to himself that ski racing is exactly what he should be doing with his life.

Cook capped a breakout season by winning the men's super-G Thursday at the season-ending World Cup finals in Meribel, France. The top 25 skiers in each discipline qualified for the finals.

Among the men Cook beat for his first career victory was runner-up Kjetil Jansrud. The Norwegian claimed the season's overall super-G title.

The 26-year-old Cook grew up in Ottawa and now lives in Lac-Sainte-Marie, Que. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Matthew Wuest, Metro reporter, CapGeek founder, dies of cancer



Matthew Wuest METRO FILE

Matthew Wuest poured his heart into his work.

The former Metro Halifax sports reporter and CapGeek founder was always the one writing the stories, often shying away from having stories written about him.

Wuest died during the early morning hours Thursday at Victoria General Hospital in Halifax, wife Melanie Patten by his side, following a 2-1/2-year battle with colon cancer.

While he was never one to have the media spotlight shining his way, Wuest's story

is one that deserves to be told.

"He was just a great guy who really loved what he did," Metro Halifax managing editor Philip Croucher said Thursday. "I've never seen anyone do it better."

Wuest was dedicated to doing the best possible job, yet was never satisfied with the end result.

The Stanley, N.B., native was always trying to better himself, whether covering local sports such as the Halifax Mooseheads, Halifax Rainmen and Atlantic University

Sport for his full-time job with Metro, or developing what became one of the most popular online hockey resources out there, an NHL salary cap review he ran out of the "CapGeek offices," his north-end Halifax home.

"There were days I'd wonder how he would get stories and information, he was so connected to the sports world, both nationally and internationally," said Croucher, who also worked with Wuest at defunct Halifax newspaper The Daily News.

Wuest was a humble soul, happy to collect the facts and conduct interviews, and as his recent quiet shutting down of CapGeek shows, apt to stay out of headlines himself.

"He didn't go for the attention that he could have gotten through that site," Croucher said of CapGeek.

"He was able to do that, and still without question, be the best sports reporter in Halifax — that speaks volumes to the talent that he was."

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO

NHL

Habs shut out Canes 4-0

Carey Price made 31 saves for his league-leading and career-best 39th win of the season as the Montreal Canadiens beat the visiting Carolina Hurricanes 4-0 on Thursday.

Price also earned his eighth shutout of the campaign.

Dale Weise, Brendan Gallagher, David Desharnais and Max Pacioretty scored for the Canadiens.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sens break late- game tie to win

Ottawa Senators won 6-4 over the Boston Bruins Thursday night.

With the game tied 4-4, Bobby Ryan brought a sold-out crowd to its feet as he scored midway through the third period. Kyle Turris added an empty-net goal to seal the win.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jets win in shootout

Andrew Ladd scored the decisive goal in the shootout to give the Winnipeg Jets a 2-1 win over the St. Louis Blues on Thursday.

Winnipeg's Ondrej Pavelec made 32 saves for his 16th win of the season as Brian Elliott stopped 33 shots for St. Louis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Capitals edge past Wild

Alex Ovechkin scored two goals, helping lift the Washington Capitals past the Minnesota Wild 3-2 on Thursday night.

Evgeny Kuznetsov also had a goal, and Braden Holtby stopped 28 of 30 shots as the Capitals won their third straight.

Ovechkin's 13th multi-goal game this season improved his NHL-leading goal total to 47.

Minnesota got goals from Christian Folin and Jared Spurgeon, while Devan Dubnyk made 24 saves.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McDavid refuses to be sucked into talk of his future home

NHL draft. Consensus No. 1 pick up for grabs by Buffalo, Arizona, Edmonton or Toronto

Connor McDavid's future is being determined every night in the NHL.

Points won and lost will eventually turn to NHL draft lottery percentages, and one lucky team will win the chance to select the 18-year-old phenom. McDavid has seen the simulator that mimics next month's lottery but hasn't run it himself and doesn't wonder too much about where he'll go.

"If you're doing that, then you're going to get kind of caught up in everything," the Erie Otters star said after a recent practice. "You have no control over it, and so why worry about it. There's nothing you can do."

McDavid can only rack up the points and wait. With less



Connor McDavid celebrates with linemate Nick Betz of the Erie Otters after his goal against the Windsor Spitfires last September in Windsor, Ont.

DENNIS PAJOT/GETTY IMAGES

than a month left in the regular season, there's an established hierarchy of teams most likely to get the No. 1 pick.

Chief among them are the Buffalo Sabres, last in the league with 47 points. Ravaged by injuries and trades, they're on goalies three and five of the season and using Johan Larsson as the No. 1 centre.

The Sabres strategically

timed their rebuild to bottom out this season and take advantage of some of the best talent available at the top of a draft in a decade. If Buffalo finishes last, it has a 20 per cent chance of getting McDavid — but a 100 per cent chance of getting either him or Boston University centre Jack Eichel.

The Toronto Maple Leafs didn't set out to be this bad,

but if they remain where they're at — fourth from the bottom behind the Sabres, Arizona Coyotes and Edmonton Oilers — they'll have 9.5 per cent chance of winning the lottery. So-called "tanking" is all the rage among the fan base but not intentional organizationally.

"We've talked to (general manager) Dave Nonis and his staff, and our mandate is to win as many games as we can," assistant coach Steve Spott said on a conference call last week. "They demand we play our best 20 (players) every night."

In spite of that, the Leafs are 2-7-1 in their past 10 games and have pieced together a blue-line to finish the season with Roman Polak (hernia) and Stephane Robidas (shoulder) shut down after surgeries. Beyond this spring, as president Brendan Shanahan put it in a letter to season-ticket holders, building this team back up "will require patience and a long-term view."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Jones rink gets short break

Curling. Skip Jennifer Jones's Winnipeg rink through to Page playoff at world women's curling championship

Canada closed out round-robin play at the world women's curling championship on Thursday

with an 8-5 win over Japan in a tuneup for the Page playoff 1-2 game.

Winnipeg skip Jennifer Jones and teammates Kaitlyn Lawes, Dawn McEwen and Jill Officer finished with a 9-2 record, good for second place behind Switzerland's Alina Patz (10-1). Jones and Patz will get a day off Friday before meeting in Saturday's playoff at the Tsukisamu Gymnasium in Sapporo, Japan, with a berth in the gold-medal game on the line.

"The way the draw was set up and because we have to stay at the rink all day, it makes for really long days, so it's nice to have a break," said Jones.

"We'll just hang out in Japan — we love it here. And I love where the team is at right now. I can't think of a better group of girls to play with."

The loser of the 1-2 game

will drop into the semifinal. Russia's Anna Sidorova claimed the third seed and will play the winner of Friday's tiebreaker between China's Sijia Liu and Scotland's Eve Muirhead in the Page playoff 3-4 game.

The 3-4 game winner will advance to the semifinal while the loser will play for bronze. The medal games will be played Sunday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Jennifer Jones's Winnipeg rink will meet Switzerland in Saturday's Page playoff for a chance to go through to the gold-medal game in Sapporo, Japan. RICHARD GRAY/WORLD CURLING FEDERATION, THE CANADIAN PRESS



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FIFA

2022 World Cup final on Qatari national holiday

The final of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar will be on Dec. 18, the country's national holiday.

FIFA confirmed on Thursday the date of the world's most-watched sports event more than four years after it controversially chose the tiny Gulf emirate as host.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIFA

France to host 2019 Women's World Cup

FIFA has picked France to host the Women's World Cup in 2019. The FIFA executive committee awarded France the hosting rights over South Korea.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter announced the decision Thursday, bringing the tournament back to Europe after Germany served as host in 2011.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Vonn wins super-G again

Lindsey Vonn won the World Cup super-G title for the fifth time after winning the last race in the discipline on Thursday at the season-ending finals in Meribel, France.

The day after clinching the downhill title, the 30-year-old American extended her record number of crystal globes in women's Alpine skiing to 19, equaling Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark's total.

ALEXIS BOICHARD/AGENCE ZOOM, GETTY IMAGES

Putting Cancon in NCAA

There are 28 Canadians playing at the NCAA men's basketball championship. Here are five to watch:

THE CANADIAN PRESS

All photos Getty Images



Trey Lyles, Kentucky Wildcats

The 19-year-old was born in Saskatoon, to a Canadian mom and American dad, and has lived most of his life in Indianapolis. The 6-10 forward has started 16 of 31 games for the No. 1-seeded Wildcats, who are a perfect 34-0 this season. Lyles is averaging 8.4 points on 50 per cent shooting.

Dylan Ennis, Villanova Wildcats

The 23-year-old from Brampton, Ont., has started every game for No. 1 seed Villanova this season. Dylan is the older brother of Milwaukee Bucks point guard Tyler Ennis. The six-foot-two guard is averaging 9.8 points a game.



Kevin Pangos, Gonzaga Bulldogs

The 22-year-old from Holland Landing, Ont., is the No. 2-seeded Bulldogs' starting point guard. The 6-2 sharpshooter holds the school record for three-point shots made, and was named the West Coast Conference player of the year.

Daniel Mullings, New Mexico State

The 23-year-old from Toronto was last season's Western Athletic Conference player of the year. The 6-2 guard is averaging 12.6 points a game. He plays for a No. 15-seeded Aggies squad that is stacked with Canadians —

Rashawn Browne, Tanveer Bhullar, Jalyn Pennie and Matt Taylor are all from Toronto.



Georges Niang, left, of No. 3 seed Iowa State reacts during his team's loss to UAB. That was before Georgia State's R.J. Hunter knocked off No. 3 Baylor with a game-winning three Thursday afternoon. GETTY IMAGES



March Madness. Brackets in tatters on opening day

Maybe if everyone's bracket is busted, no one's is?

It was barely after lunch on the West Coast when Georgia State finished the second big upset of the day — in just the first three games. Between the Panthers' upset of Baylor and UAB's takedown of Iowa State, two No. 3 seeds falling that quickly on the tournament's first big day left almost every bracket blemished.

ESPN says that three games into Thursday, more than 99

per cent of the brackets submitted on their website were damaged by the upsets. That leaves only about 87,000 out of 11.6 million still with a perfect bracket or 0.7 per cent.

Spokesman Josh Krulowitz tweeted that nearly one in six of ESPN's brackets — 16 per cent — had Iowa State in the Final Four, and 5.1 per cent had Baylor there.

Just 3.1 per cent of Yahoo Sports users picked UAB to win and 5.9 picked Georgia State. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

NBA. Raptors vow not to rush star PG back from sore back for big clash with Bulls

At a time when the Raptors are scrambling to get some spunk back after a dreggy stretch of play, their star guard and de facto leader gets banged up and may have to sit out.

It's not what you'd want as

you head out for a tough road game after stitching together your first back-to-back wins in a month's time, but c'est la vie. Coach Dwane Casey put Kyle Lowry's odds to play in Chicago Friday night at 50/50. He said the injury Low-



Kyle Lowry
THE CANADIAN PRESS

ry took on a baseline tumble against Minnesota amounts to soreness and is "nothing structural."

Yet as Patrick Patterson put it after the team's shoot-around Thursday, it'd be better to have the all-star sit now than it would be come playoff time.

"Of course we'd rather have Kyle out there than

not out there, but, at the end of the day, we want him healthy," said Patterson. "We don't want him to have any nagging or lagging injuries or tolls on his body once playoffs start."

Toronto's narrow victory

over the injured and out-manned Minnesota Timberwolves Wednesday night put the Raptors at 41-27 on the season — and just 4-14 since the all-star break in mid-February.

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

The Sun moves into your sign today and a new solar year begins. Just how good that year will be depends on the things you do over the next few days.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

If someone blames you for something that was not your fault, let them know you are not happy about it, but don't go and make an enemy of them.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

According to the planets you need to ignore other people's advice and go back to basics. Start by asking yourself how and why you have arrived at your current position.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

The Sun moves into the area of your chart that governs your social and professional status today. Over the next few weeks you will get many opportunities to better yourself.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Something you thought of as a problem won't be seen as such any more because you refuse to take it seriously. Your attitude will soften over the next day.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Over the past few weeks the emphasis has been on partnerships of an emotional nature but as of today it will shift to partnerships of a business or financial nature.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

The Sun's change of signs today means you are halfway through your solar year: a good point to look back and take stock of how far you have come.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

With the Sun moving into the work and wellbeing area of your chart today you'll need to do more in some areas and less in others. Get the balance right.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Refuse to settle for second best. Your confidence will soar over the next few days and you will start to believe that anything is possible. One of the best times of the year is about to begin.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

There is no such thing as coincidence and if you feel yourself drawn towards a certain person it is because your fates are connected.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Now that the Sun is moving into one of the more sociable areas of your chart you won't have any problems getting across your point of view.

♓ Pisces

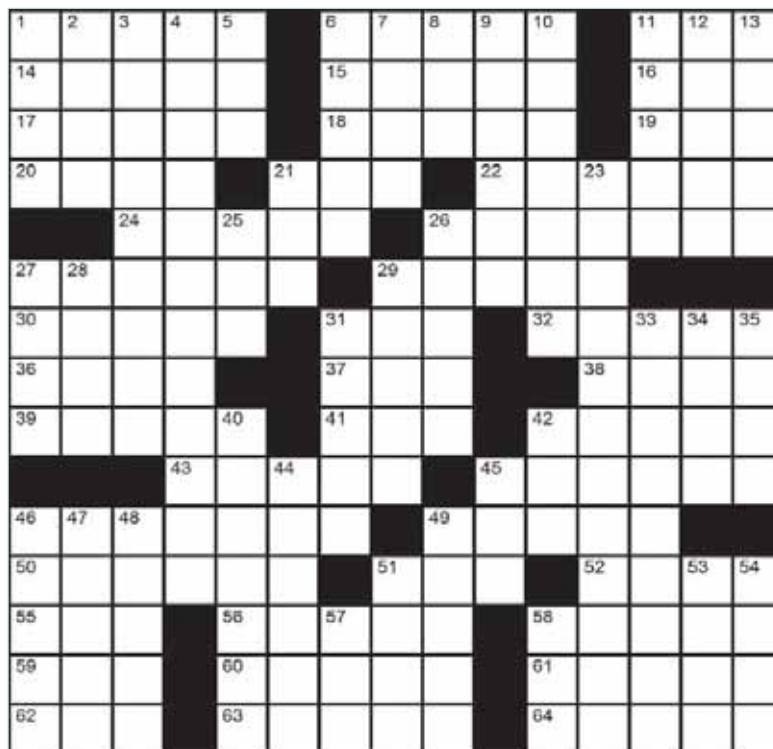
Feb. 20 - March 20

Get serious about your dreams. Look at the plans you have made in recent weeks and ask yourself if you are aiming too high or too low. Most likely it's the latter. Raise your sights and your game will follow.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

Across

1. Spot ___ (BC shrimp)
6. Orange variety
11. Tea holder
14. Second-year students, briefly
15. Perry ___ (Menswear label)
16. Completely
17. "___ by Sea" (1996)
18. Novelist Evelyn
19. Electronics co.
20. Shaker stuff
21. Zoologist's 'foot'
22. Protector-from-harm charm
24. Bubbled tool
26. Edmund Fitzgerald's load: 2 wds. (More at #4-Down)
27. Financial motive
29. ___ ___ (Multiple choice options)
30. Altercation: 2 wds.
31. "___ Maria"
32. "Frozen" (2013) Queen's
36. Cuckoos
37. Sea: French
38. "___ blame." (My bad!)
39. OKs
41. Cartoonist Mr. Spiegelman
42. Wings hit: letter + wd.
43. Creature
45. Typing: It's to a Q's left: 2 wds.
46. NFLD: Cape ___
47. Ecological Reserve
49. Venture
50. Key in again



51. Bulg. neighbour
52. Justin Bieber's "That Should ___"
55. 'Thrice'-meaning prefix
56. "___ Was a Lady" (1945)
58. Philadelphia athlete

59. ___ crossroads
60. Mythical maiden
61. West Yorkshire city in England
62. Elle: English
63. Dallas' state denizen
64. Actor Mr. Davis

Down

1. Calif. clock settings
2. Seating near the stage: wd. + letter
3. Ms. Kotero of "Purple Rain" (1984)
4. "The searchers all say they'd have made ___ if..." - Gordon

5. Banking acronym
6. "Foolish Games" singer
7. Unluckily
8. Bug
9. The Marriage of ___ by Mozart, 1786
10. Canadian actor

- Shawn
11. Gambling destination, with Monte
12. Gastric trouble
13. Dish
21. Kibbles eater
23. Cirque of the ___ (Northwest Territories mountaineering challenge)
25. Mr. Diesel
26. French composer Jacques
27. Talk to God
28. Germanic letter
29. Deflect
31. Stockpile
33. Brigitte Bardot makeup look: 2 wds.
34. Dip ___ in (Test the lake's coldness)
35. ___ Music Canada
40. ___ Mounds (Approx. 2000-year-old burial site near Peterborough, Ontario)
42. Honking source
44. "___, Captain!"
45. Mr. Arnold
46. Miss: Spanish [abbr. plural]
47. Zipper bits
48. ___ (Alberta peak named after Arctic explorer John)
49. Alpine dry wind
51. Kelly of daytime
53. ___spa
54. Celtic language
57. Rapper/actor known by these three letters
58. Andy Capp's wife

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



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